Mining Strikes + Disturbances

1973 - 1976

FM

SEPTEMBER 14
1987

After the shooting

Whatever the immediate causes, Western Deep's tragedy — so soon after Durban — suggests a deep malaise in our society

Twelve men died this week at Western Deep Levels. Was it necessary?

Before the police opened fire in self-defence, were prescribed riot control procedures followed; are these procedures themselves satisfactory; do they leave enough alternatives to bullets? These are issues that need to be resolved. And the only satisfactory way to do that is to hold a public judicial enquiry.

So far, it must be stressed, the miners' side of the story has not been heard.

Western Deep chairman John Shilling said the background to the tragedy was a wage dispute between management and 200-300 African machine operators at the mine's No 2 shaft. In the past 15 months average cash earnings of these men had risen by 46% to R51 70 per month, while those of underground drivers had risen by 60% to R41 60.

The wage differential between the two groups of workers had therefore narrowed, which aggrieved the machine operators. Their demand for an increase was rejected. Picketing, violence — and a riot — followed.

Wage grievances do not usually result in riots, though ugly scenes between rival groups of workers are not uncommon. Yet a fatal riot developed at Western Deep. Why?

Did the miners turn to violence because communication channels with management were inadequate? There are, of course, no African trade unions on the mines, and the recent Bantu Labour Relations Regulation Amendment Act, which extends the works committee system, does not apply on the mines.

Mine profits

Perhaps — although one cannot be sure about this — violence would not have occurred if the men had been able to negotiate through a recognised trade union and then, if dissatisfied with management's attitude, decide on strike action in terms of legal procedures like those introduced in the Act (*FM* May 25).

Are Black miners fully aware of Anglo's Black job evaluation and advancement programme which led to the widened differential, and are they satisfied that it provides adequate rewards and opportunities? Are they aware of Anglo's comparatively enlightened approach to their problems? And was their wage demand also partly motivated by awareness of the enormous profits which the gold mines have been reaping in the past year (*FM* February 9–March 30)? Perhaps not, but we cannot be sure.

An even broader question is this: Does the riot in any way reflect a growing alienation of Black workers from their employers, and from an economic system which separates them from their families and houses them in single-sex compounds? There are 8 470 Black males in Western Deep's compound, according to the Police.

Indeed, perhaps the malaise goes even deeper. It could even reflect a sense of alienation from a society in whose bargaining processes, industrial and political, Black workers have virtually no voice.

None of these questions can easily be answered. But neither — whatever the proximate causes of Tuesday night's tragedy — can they be lightly dismissed.

SA had a taste of Black industrial unrest earlier this year in Durban.

The strikes there, pretty clearly, were rooted in perfectly understandable dissatisfaction with starvation wages.

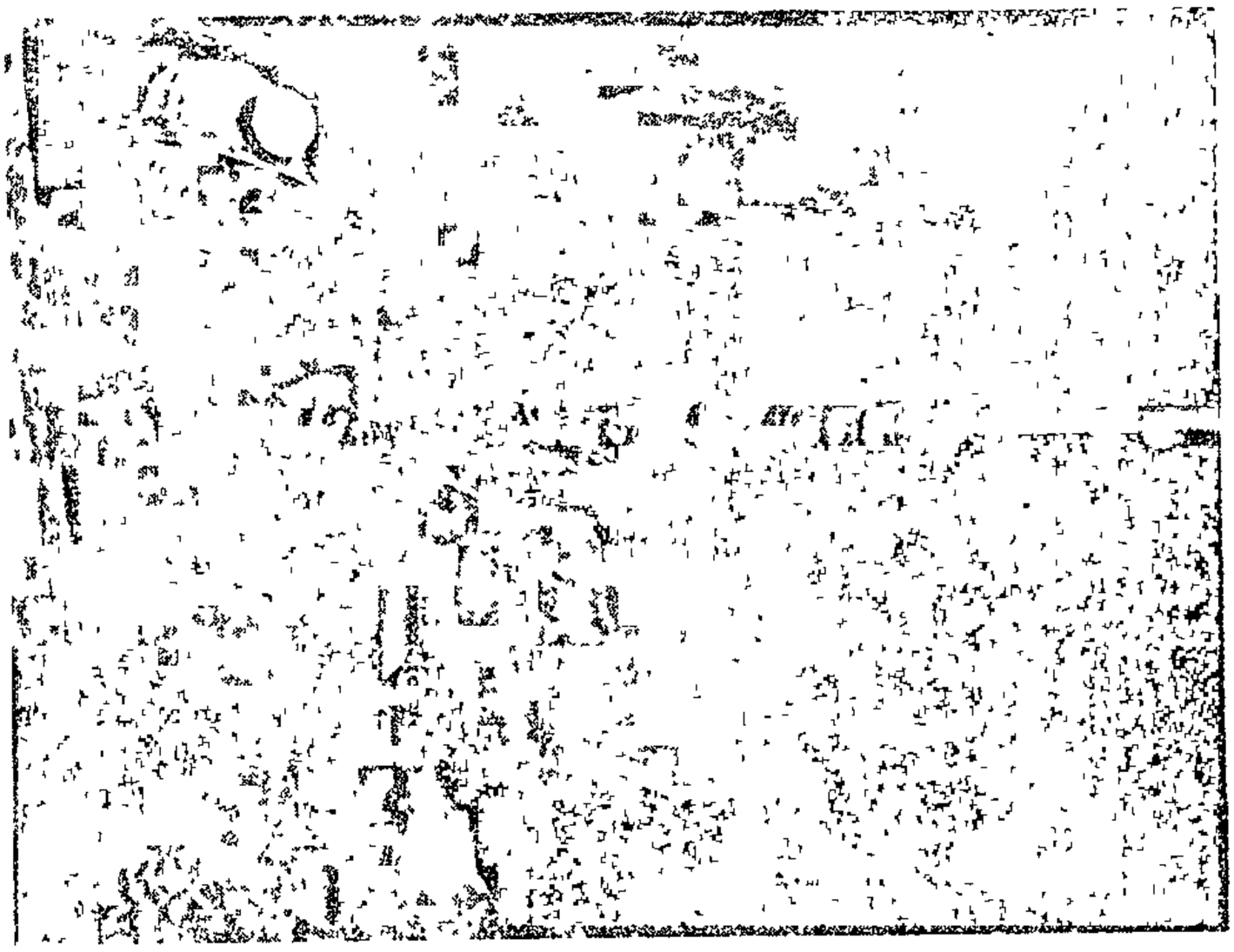
Back to work

At this stage, it would appear clear that Western Deep's trouble was not rooted in the same causes. As the Prime Minister noted on Wednesday night, it was "work as usual" that day.

But neither, on the other hand, can we afford to treat it as an isolated incident.

The sensible course is to assume the worst and prepare a course of action.

We have three choices. Government could resort to *kragdadigheid* and start a witch hunt for agitators and scapegoats. It could blame the Press and Ban-



Black miners — what light at the end of the tunnel?

tustan leaders This approach deserves only contempt Secondly, government – and management — could sit back and do nothing This might have been convenient in the past Only the most short sighted would subscribe to it today Events are moving too rapidly

Thirdly, those in control could take a long, hard look at themselves and make some real and statesmanlike concessions to Black workers decent wages and living standards, social security more family housing, and an effective say in industrial and political decision-making The time to act is now

Unless we do, industrial unrest — with the possibility of violence in the background — could become endemic.

As it is, world reaction appears quite predictably, to have been uniformly hostile The effects of this on investment, the stock market (see page 1055) and the economy could at the very least, be uncomfortable

Living with inflation

Persistently soaring prices have raised a whole new set of financial and economic problems. How to lick them

Those who fondly imagine that a return to the "acceptable" inflation rates of the Sixties (2% to 5%) is still possible within the next year or so had better think again.

The executive directors of the International Monetary Fund virtually admit in their annual report published this week that the current world battle against inflation is lost.

"The present cyclical situation," they coolly state, "is generally not favourable, or conducive, to abatement of price inflation"

"With rates of resource utilisation generally increasing rather rapidly, efforts to bring down the prevailing high rates of price increase and to temper inflationary expectations, are being conducted in an expansionary economic environment that may well continue through 1973 and into 1974"

In SA, because of its daunting Black employment problem, that "expansionary economic environment" is likely to be around even longer Indeed, Dr Diederichs told the Transvaal National Party Congress on Tuesday that the signs point to a massive growth period over the next few years

So it seems we had better all get used to the idea that the cost of living is going to continue to rise by at least 5%-10% a year (compound, mind you) for quite some time.

For a kick off it may be worth noting that in this brave new economic world it will be quite normal for the price of a commodity or service to double in a decade. That, in effect, is what happens when prices rise by about 7% a year compound

Those whose after tax incomes rise by less will find that their standard of living will shrink

Having got this central point firmly implanted in one's mind, the next step is to map out a course of defensive action General rules (Buy now, pay later, Spend, don't save, Borrow, don't lend) are not all that helpful, although they do serve as useful tips when planning broad strategy

How many, for instance, are kicking themselves for having postponed buying a new car a couple of years ago because they wanted to save bigger deposits to minimise finance charges The way car prices have rocketed makes any saving of interest look like peanuts

And talking of interest rates, anyone not desperate for immediate income who willingly lends at current long term rates of 7 75% 10% must surely be taking an extremely dismal view of other investment opportunities After tax and inflation, the real rate of return is almost bound to be a hefty negative

Next, anyone who has not already bought his own home should obviously do so without delay Bond money is easy to come by and (relatively) cheap and with inflation roaring ahead, the likelihood of future long term capital appreciation is tremendous, although as in Britain the market may well take a temporary knock if and when bond rates rise again

Long term capital appreciation plus rent saved should comfortably outweigh the sum of interest paid on one's bond, rates, maintenance and interest receipts forfeited on one's deposit

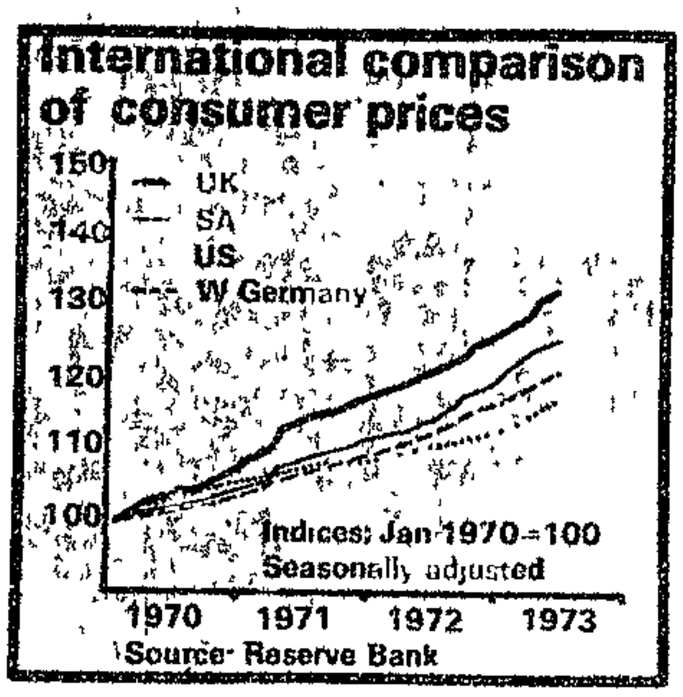
Similarly those with funds to spare could probably do worse than buy a second house and let it although rent control and delinquent tenants could be a problem Even a piece of land inland for capital appreciation or at the coast for eventual retirement, is worth considering, even if it produces no rent return.

Then, for those in upper tax brackets, there are various tax free investments, not forgetting the 8,5% tax free that can effectively be earned by paying off part or all of one's building society bond in advance

Immediate prospects for the stock market, on the other hand, are poor, more so after the Western Deep shooting But as yields rise more and more shares will start to look attractive again as *long-term* investments – unless one takes a completely pessimistic view of profit prospects and investor confidence over the next decade or so

But whatever decisions are taken in the investment field, the problems of inflation do not end there by any means Other areas where new perspectives are needed include for example tax policy pensions accounting procedures and long term contracts

Tax policy in future will have to take account of the fact that real incomes will be rising much more slowly than money incomes Because personal tax scales are sharply progressive and based on money incomes the State's share of personal income (both money income and real income) tends to increase And it increases more rapidly the higher the rate of inflation This opens the way for



Western Deep re-visited

Some questions still need to be answered and lessons learnt.

A commission of inquiry should be appointed

The inquest into the deaths of eleven African miners at Western Deep Levels on September 11 has come and gone. And the presiding officer, Mr C H Badenhorst, Chief Magistrate of Bloemfontein, has exonerated the police

But regrettably question marks remain which it is in the interest of South Africa, of the mining industry, of the police and not least of the bereaved families, to have resolved

Albino Cainhane was shot in the back, according to the evidence of the district surgeon. He was 42m from the police at the time. No warning shot was fired

Moleleki Nkopane was throwing stones at the police and was probably responsible for the only serious injury they suffered that night. He was shot dead from a distance of 25m by a sharpshooter who had cover. In his initial statement the policeman who shot him made no mention of warning shots In court, however, he claimed he had fire two and had then shot to kill

In the "battle of the administratio block" four men were shot dead The bodies were found between some 30 and 50m from the verandah of th building, from which the police fire The extent of the danger to the pol allegedly averted by the killings unclear

The verandah was protected any storming by a railing and b

was, in effect, a wide moat two storeys deep Although the police on the verandah were allegedly subjected to a heavy stoning no windows there were broken and none of the policemen were seriously injured

Malefetsane Teleka was shot dead at the northwestern gate of the compound from a distance of 30m According to police evidence he was shot as he and his followers were preparing to storm them No shot was fired to warn him.

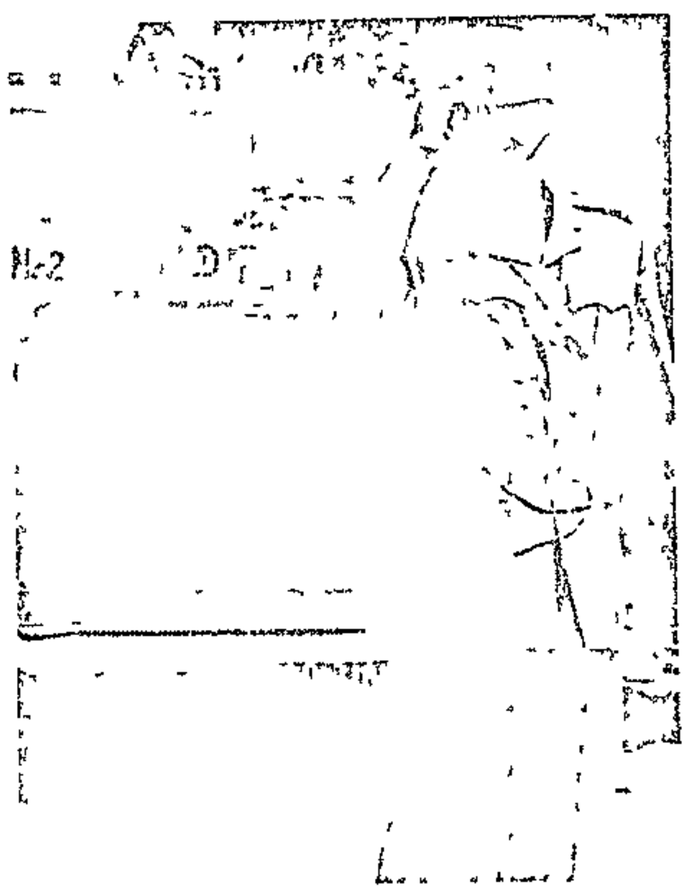
The degree to which the police were in danger is uncertain here too At the time, some of them were merely sitting on the grass outside the gate

Five other bodies were found

Two men apparently died near the main compound gate in a sten-gun volley after three baton-charges had failed No one seemed to know who had shot them One man was shot dead while evidently storming the police near the canteen One body was found isolated some considerable distance from the compound The circumstances of this man's death remain a mystery.

The twelfth dead man was Jameson Mkhonza, originally said by the Minister of Police to have been "hacked to death by the rioters." An inquest into his death has still to be held The district surgeon was of the opinion that his death was caused by a blunt instrument. This was challenged at the inquest, however, and police evidence suggested that he, too, had been shot.

A question which has not been satisfactorily answered is why the police were not ordered to fire warning shots *in each instance* when they felt endangered that night On several occasions such a tactic was successfully used, for example by Lieutenant Potgieter, who dispersed a large crowd without injury to anyone



Where were the rubber bullets and riot shields?

In the case of seven of the shootings mentioned above, it remains open to doubt whether the action of the police was commensurate with the danger they faced

Another unanswered question is why, when the police arrived at the compound, they did not do the obvious thing and attempt to cordon off the 70 to 100 miners who had started the trouble by picketing the tunnel through to the No 2 shaft Had they been isolated in this corner of the compound, the spread of unrest to other parts might have been prevented and the whole tragedy averted.

This was the course of action contemplated by the mine management There was a conflict of evidence as to why it was not communicated to the police

The disadvantage of an inquest is that it is limited to establishing the identity of the deceased, the dates and causes of their deaths, and whether anyone committed an offence in causing them. But if any lessons are to be learnt from this tragedy a full public inquiry, with the widest terms of reference, must be set up to examine several other important issues:

Riot control

- First and foremost, police training in riot control.

No one will deny that the situation at Western Deep that night was difficult, potentially dangerous, and that it required courage, discipline, proper chains of command, and special skills.

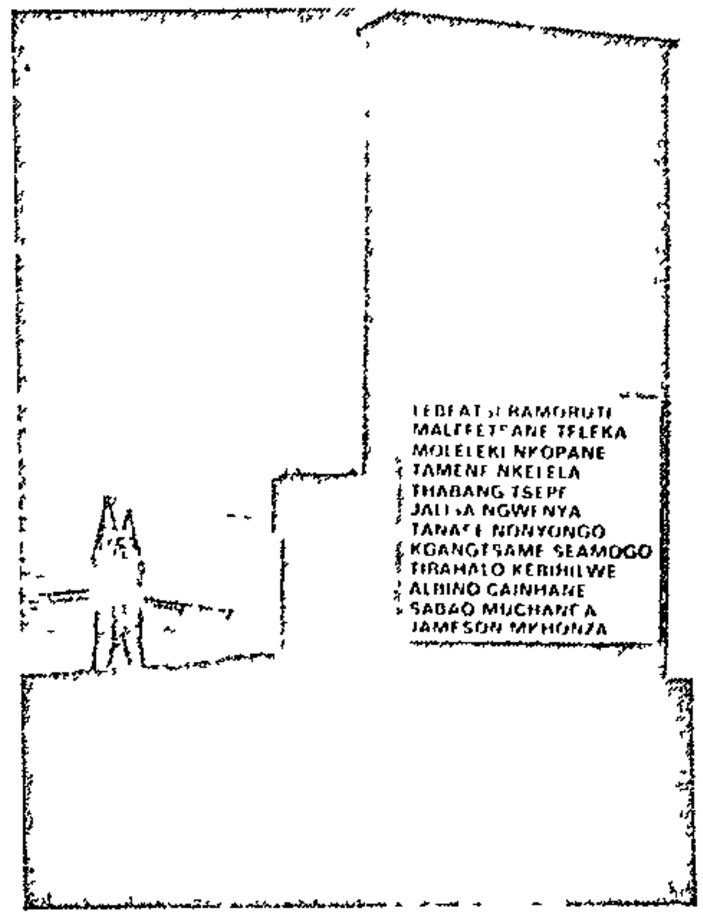
However, the police — even some of the more senior officers — appear to be singularly ill-equipped for riot control The first contingent to arrive, under Major Cloete, comprised 14 Whites carrying firearms and seven Africans bearing batons

It is surely inexcusable that they should have come without gas-masks or enough helmets, without even common or garden shields, and with only two gas-pistols

It is astonishing that the South African police should apparently not yet have drawn on the experience of other countries in the use of water cannon, rubber bullets, and other equipment more effective than tear-gas and batons, so that when they find themselves in tough situations they have a wide range of non-lethal equipment at their disposal

- Secondly, mine communication channels require critical scrutiny The present system clearly failed: the general manager of Western Deep Levels, Algy von Holdt, told the inquest the indunas had no control that night

In modern times, is it realistic to expect workers to continue adhering to a traditional tribal leadership system? It is certainly unrealistic to expect them simply to accept, without question, changes in wage structures decreed from above (albeit with the worthiest of motives).



Where it all happened

How much longer can the introduction of a more democratic system of industrial relations on the mines be delayed?

- Thirdly, the Western Deep tragedy underlined again the potential dangers of the compound and migrant labour systems Housing over 8 000 men in a single compound is asking for trouble: the events of September 11 show how rapidly unrest can spread from a relatively small group to hundreds of others not initially involved

And surely it is common sense that if African miners were allowed to live with their families in homes of their own they would be much less likely to become an aggressive and plundering mob.

Government policy allows only a tiny percentage of African miners to be so housed How long will it be before government sees the light?

South Africa is experiencing a tide of rising aspirations among the Black working-class At the same time the demand for stable and productive labour is greater than ever before We cannot indefinitely afford the high social, economic, political, and human costs of the migrant labour system — on the mines (where it is most extensive) or anywhere else.

The most important lesson of the Western Deep tragedy is that South Africa cannot much longer delay applying more effective ways of marrying the interests of White employers and Black workers

MARCH 8
1974

Behind the violence

Without harmony and goodwill among African mineworkers, neither the gold mining industry nor South Africa can prosper. Restoring it will require some fundamental changes

Mine faction fight — admittedly on a larger scale than usual — or something much deeper? That is the first question which needs to be analysed in seeking an explanation for the 24 murders and 227 assaults which — apparently inexplicably — started on that bloody weekend at Welkom in mid February

One thing it was not It was not a management-labour confrontation of the kind that shook South Africa and the mining industry at Western Deep Levels last September The resentment then was over wage increases and changed pay differentials On the other hand, whether worker-management communication at Welkom was all it should be is an open question

Nor was the Welkom violence the outcome of a simple faction fight that escalated It was essentially inter-tribal not intra-tribal

No one knows for sure what really lay behind the frustration and anger the Sothos felt towards the Xhosas But there are at least two factors which may help to explain both the attacks and the subsequent mass exodus of 14 000 Black mineworkers, mainly Sothos, back to their homelands.

The first is a simple human one lack of women, particularly acutely felt by the Xhosas (a minority on the mine) The Sothos, in contrast, enjoyed access to the women of the nearby Thabong township with its mainly Sotho population

The Xhosas understandably resented the success enjoyed by their Sotho workmates and this, so the Sothos claim, led the Xhosas to make sporadic attacks on returning Sothos and their women

Embittered by the failure of the indunas and the mine management to intervene effectively, despite the Sothos having offered proof of Xhosa attacks and having threatened that, if they continued, they would leave the mine the Sothos decided to take matters into their own hands Mass reprisals followed

Peace was eventually restored Or so it seemed But within hours Sotho mine workers started leaving the mine and this soon became a mass exodus from Free State Geduld Western Holdings and Welkom which has left them with less than half their African labour force

That is the background as far as we can establish it But complicating these tragic events are deep underlying political tensions

The Sothos frequently taunted the Xhosas that their nation was not really independent, while the Sothos themselves were caught up in Leabua Jonathan's power struggle at home, with the majority of them backing the opposition Congress Party

It would be surprising therefore if Congress Party infiltrators did not try to exploit the rising tide of anger and resentment in the hope of creating a situation in which Sotho workers would decide to down tool, return home and strengthen the anti-Jonathan camp.

This political element in the situation is nevertheless, discounted by police investigators who view the killings simply as a tribal clash despite the fact that there is a surprisingly high degree of party political organisation on the mines concerned and intense pro and anti Jonathan feelings

Jonathan's promise

The existence of this political dimension seems to be confirmed by the fact that both Jonathan and Congress Party leaders vied with each other in welcoming home the returning mineworkers Indeed Jonathan has since promised that his government — and not the Chamber of Mines — will in future be responsible for recruiting labour in Lesotho and that he will negotiate directly with Pretoria on mine recruitment and working conditions

Clearly mine labour relations generally have been moving out of the era when recruitment and contract terms were purely a matter for private enterprise Access to Mozambique labour has long been conditional on prior government to government agreement and Homeland leaders have also indicated that they have decided to make labour a matter of inter-State policy too They may well have taken this further when they met the Prime Minister this week

More immediately it is, of course desperately necessary to restore harmony on the mines affected, to re-establish a basis for peaceful inter-tribal co operation, and to get the mines back to full production again To this end government representatives will preside over two mass meetings at the mines on March 11 at which Lesotho and Transkei leaders will, it is expected, address their people

So far so good We hope goodwill will be speedily restored But to maintain it and to reduce, if not eliminate, the risk of future strife, longer term remedies are needed to remove the causes of frustration (which predisposes men to violence) to normalise living conditions and to accommodate rising levels of political consciousness — not to mention Black consciousness — which threaten to burst the compound-migrant labour system at its seams

To dismiss the Welkom killings as mindless tribal violence is tempting, but dangerous

There is indeed no historical enmity between Xhosa and Sotho Rather is the explanation to be sought in a combination of factors

Firstly the acute sexual frustration felt by mineworkers in this case particularly by the Xhosas

Secondly there is the boredom of a monotonous barrack-like existence in

Did it have to end like this?

which the close proximity of man to man means that even a petty quarrel between two individuals can flare up and quickly draw in everyone else

Thirdly, for those workers who are becoming increasingly politically sophisticated and who sense that they are part of the rising tide of Black consciousness, the compound system which, after all, was evolved in the last century) must be felt as an increasingly intolerable strait-jacket

Nothing short of the phasing out of the migratory labour system which separates men from their womenfolk can eliminate these tensions And it would be surprising if this does not soon become a pre condition which African leaders will seek to impose on Pretoria for the mines right of access to their labour

Welcome as that transition would be, it would have to be flanked by a programme of industrialisation around the goldfields Mineworkers womenfolk would also need employment And as each mine became worked out, the growth points established could provide the nucleus for the additional work opportunities that will eventually be needed - by both White and Black

This, of course, would mean vast expenditure by the mines and the State on housing education and infrastructure But what better investment could there be than one which would go a long way towards guaranteeing the continuity and productivity of South Africa's major asset?

No 10's new tenant

There's pipe smoke in the corridors. But Ted and Jeremy will see to it there are no sparks

There's an air of unreality about it all watching Harold and Mary Wilson walk on the steps of No 10 Downing Street on Monday night was like the turn of an old Sixties film

Even Wilson, the eternal optimist, seemed somewhat bemused Tight lipped, he confined his comments on entering No 10 to: "We have got a job to do. We can only do that job as one people. And I am going right in to start that job now."

And he went The man who became notorious for instant government in his previous term of office returned to his desk knowing that two instant solutions are urgently required -- a miners settlement and an end to the three day working week.

By Tuesday midday he had pounced his Cabinet and by early afternoon the new Secretary for Employment -- a brilliant choice in left winger Michael Foot — was meeting the miners

The rest of the Cabinet is an experienced team, with James Callaghan at Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Denis Healey at the Treasury - - a better place for him than the Foreign Office from SA's point of view - and Roy Jenkins back in the Home Secretary's

experience is indeed a key requisite balance on a political tightrope and at the same time produce a strong enough brand of government to deal with Britain's record balance of payments deficit and industrial strife is to ask for an untried administration the lack of an overall majority will only keep Wilson from trying any experiments

In fact, the post-election situation is likely to prove half as bad to the history as many commentators within the have been making out And the events of the last ten days have brought a breath of much needed fresh air to a political atmosphere which if not polluted was decidedly jaded

- The Heath Administration got its come uppance for the extraordinary arrogance of its central campaign platform - that, because the economic situation over which it had presided was getting progressively worse, it was even more important that the same government should carry on
- The prospect of rampant nationalisation has disappeared because the country quite evidently did not vote for it and because the Conservative and Liberal Parties together will simply not allow it

Healey . a deflationary Budget?

The rabid nationaliser Tony Wedgewood Benn has been cut down to size by being given only a part of the old Trade and Industry Ministry to run

- The Liberal revival much more apparent in the share of votes cast (20%) than in actual seats (14 out of the 635) is not only healthy in itself but is a major jolt to the complacency of the other two Parties Its number of MPs hardly sounds democratic, and this must prompt some longer-term electoral reform.

This may indeed be fine from the future historian's point of view But what about the immediate economic and industrial crisis? Where is the first minority administration since Ramsay MacDonald's in 1929 going to get Britain?

Although Heath hung on for an uncomfortably long weekend before accepting the inevitable, the absence of a formal coalition does not mean that the atmosphere is all that bitter between the three main parties Liberal leader Jeremy Thorpe, having smelt blood was not going to risk antagonising his new-found voters by teaming up with one Party and his proposals for a formal national government of all three was a non-runner

But all three Parties are *privately* agreed that it would be harmful to have another election in the next few months

In economic terms this means the miners' dispute will be settled fast and there will be an early Budget The latter will do what everybody expects and in a curious masochistic way seems to want deflate home demand to pave the way for improving the balance of payments

An early approach to the International Monetary Fund can be expected But to judge from Chancellor Healey previous pronouncements, there will be little trouble in squaring his views on the amount of necessary deflation with those of the IMF's

Labour can expect support from the Liberals on the general approach to renegotiating the Common Market terms, but not on any decision to opt out Thorpe and company will also back them up in repealing the Industrial Relations Act whose main deficiency has been its failure to improve industrial relations

MINE LABOUR

The gathering storm

The future of a large part of the gold mining industry's foreign labour supply continued to hang in the balance this week as three crucial events unfolded outside SA's borders

The first was a meeting between President Banda and a delegation from the Chamber of Mines to discuss Malawi's ban on recruiting According to Chamber President Dolf Schumann, certain employment arrangements, not favoured by Malawi, were discussed He was not specific but said after the meeting he believed new arrangements could be made that would satisfy and benefit the Malawians

One such arrangement (*FM*, September 13) might be to allow Air Malawi to ferry migrants directly to and from a special terminal at Jan Smuts Airport, rather than have the Chamber's recruitment agency, Wenela, transport them via Botswana. Air Malawi is doing the job at present, but only one way — outwards.

The next development was the result of the official inquiry into the crash of a Wenela DC-4 aircraft near Francistown on April 4 this year — the crash that resulted in Banda's ban. The inquiry found the accident, in which 72 Malawi miners and five others died, was due to the "act, default or negligence of Shell and BP Marketing Services Pty or of people employed by the company"

The firm was responsible for the accidental mixing of aircraft fuels

Wenela was also criticised on a number of points:

- Although Francistown airport is licenced in its name, and it manages air operations, supply of aircrews and aircraft services, no airport manager had been appointed with overall and ultimate responsibility for the running of the airport The Board of Inquiry discovered some laxity in checking out aircraft before flights, in particular, there was no responsible person present when the plane was refuelled on April 3.
- Passengers were not shown the location of emergency exits or instructed in their use before take-off,
- Fire equipment at the airport consisted of two trucks, minor foam tenders and various hand-hold fire extinguishers No one was responsible for fire-crew training and the equipment was inadequate and poorly maintained,
- There were no first-aid facilities, blankets, stretchers or ambulances at the airport and no vehicles were available equipped for crash or rescue duties
- No grid map of the aerodrome, or its surroundings, were available and the crews had no equipment to cut through the wire perimeter fence. As a result, it took airport personnel at least 30 minutes to reach the scene of the crash, although it occurred only 3km short of the main runway They were unable to extinguish the blaze or to rescue any of those left in the wreckage

To make matters worse, the truck carrying the seven survivors hit a small river bed on its return and turned over Six of them walked through the bush for more than 1 500m before being found

The Board was unable to determine to what extent the inadequate passenger briefing or poor rescue facilities had affected the outcome of the accident. however

Exactly how the result of the inquiry will influence Banda remains to be seen

Finally, there was the speech by Frelimo president, Samora Machel (see page 1215) It made no direct reference to mine migrants but included pejorative remarks about "selling human beings" and about productive factors not serving "our country or our people"

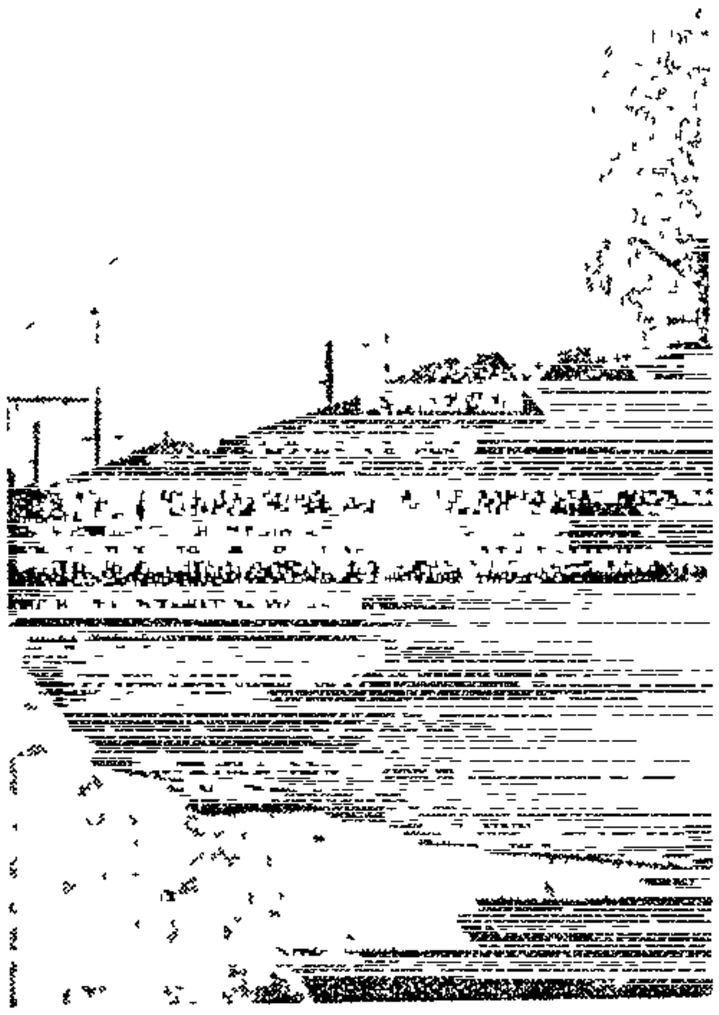
If both Mozambique and Malawi were to ban recruitment permanently (which, however, seems unlikely) the consequences for SA's mining industry would be serious — although presumably Mozambicans could still cross the border and be hired at, say Komatipoort

President Banda . . . still no let-up for labour

MOZAMBIQUE TREATY

SAR opts out

More information has come to light since the *FM*'s disclosure last week that the Mozambique Convention was amended in 1969 to release SA from its obligation to channel a specific proportion of Pretoria Witwatersrand-Vereeniging-bound imports (at that time 40%) through Lourenco Marques.



Bulk ore for LM . . . ironing out the obligations

The amendment, it has now been suggested, is the result of SAR's objection to being saddled with obligations which had nothing to do with its operations (The 40% requirement was basically a *quid pro quo* for SA's use of Mozambican mine labour)

The new wording of the relevant part of the Convention is as follows:

"The governments of SA and Portugal and their railway administrations shall not, without prior consultation with each other, take any measures which may —

- Prevent the normal development of the commercial sea-borne traffic destined for the 'competitive area' through the port of Lourenco Marques,
- Cause a diversion of this traffic from Lourenco Marques, or
- Nullify or detract from the relative advantage which Lourenco Marques at present enjoys over Durban by reason of its closer proximity to Johannesburg"

It should be borne in mind that SAR policy is in any case to channel traffic along the most economic route, which in many cases — particularly bulk goods originating in the Eastern Transvaal — happens to be through LM

"Prior consultation" means no more than informing the other party of your intentions — there is no obligation to reach agreement, though the amended article does make provision for an arbitration procedure in the event of a dispute.

The amendment also provides for the payment by SA to Mozambique Railways of R1,6m pa for five years "to compensate the CFM Administration for the relatively high proportion of

Legal aid for miners

4/8/86

The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — A body of Lesotho trade unionists has made a contribution towards the legal defence of Basotho and Xhosa miners involved in last February's disturbances at the Welkom gold mines.

The Lesotho Council of Workers has given R1 300 to be shared for this purpose as well as the Prime Minister's Carletonville disaster victims' fund

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it, has had no restriction So most borrowers will feel the full effect

The Association of Building Societies has agreed to a uniform increase in the mortgage rate on domestic loans On non-domestic lending — that is for flats, shops and offices — they set their rates independently

The non-domestic rate averaged about 10% last week It is now simply a matter for the boards of the different societies to fix their new rates A minimum of 1% up across the board will surprise no-one

Coming on top of the 25% steel increase, this is going to knock flat development particularly hard, because the yields on that kind of development are not often above the 10% 12% range So developers will tend to shy away

That means, not too far away, a flat shortage and higher rents, something to chew over for those flat tenants who thought that this week's shocks were passing them by

CAPITAL MARKET

Uncertain outlook

The capital market may have looked uncertain before Governor De Jongh allowed the interest rate pattern to move up. Now, prospects are really cloudy. Merchant banks with issues currently in the pipeline or on offer are biting their nails

Guardian Liberty Investment Corporation cleverly got in just in time with its R4,5m secured issue for Rapp & Maister at 10¼% It was able to announce late last week that it had got the money it was looking for — and apparently did not have to rely entirely on its big brothers — the insurance companies in the group

Standard Merchant Bank confirms that it got to the point of no return with its R7,5m unsecured debenture issue for Barlow Rand The coupon on this private placing is 10½%

Though this might look relatively low now that money market rates have moved up (by 1½% in most cases), and even though the guideline mortgage rate has been raised to 10½%, Barlow Rand will probably get its money Most placees have presumably given undertakings to buy some of the stock, but SMB will not breathe easily until all cheques are in

Senbank is also going ahead with its issue, which is said to be a private placing for the Rembrandt Group This issue is interesting in that it is a real giant — R20m.

It carries a floating coupon rate, set at 1¾% above prime overdraft rate, which will give a current return of 11¾% The issue will have an average life of 15 years Lest investors are worried about the prime rate plunging over this period, a minimum of 10% is apparently being guaranteed These are pretty attractive terms

The issue is rumoured to be for Rembrandt subsidiary Master Property Investment Trust, though it will carry a Rembrandt guarantee

Rates which companies have to pay for debenture issues now look frightening So we can probably expect companies to hesitate for a while before coming to the market The overriding factor will obviously be their overall cost structure, in which interest could be a small element, even at these levels

Semi-gilt issues look risky Whether merchant banks will be able to offer successfully the smaller municipals at the moment is uncertain Prime semi-gilts are likely to have to carry a coupon of at least 9,5% to interest investors, though it is too early to establish what the pattern will be

The answer will probably be available soon seeing the Rand Water Board is scheduled to start testing the market with an issue

Capital market investors who must be feeling rather sore at the change in pattern rates on government stocks are those who went in for the recent gilt issues. A scant two weeks after the government got its money, rates moved sharply against them

In capital markets, as in love, timing is of the essence

OIL PRICE

Tax hikes likely

Iran is resolved to further raise the price of oil it exports, a top government official told *FM*'s Teheran correspondent this week

The official said "galloping inflation" precluded any other move, as Iran would suffer *vis à-vis* the price of imported goods

The cost of commodities had appreciably risen in the past two months and "we just cannot think of selling our oil at a non-realistic price" He stressed "We have a huge bill to pay for imports of basic materials needed for our growing industries and this bill continues to soar"

The only OPEC country known to favour a reduction in the price is Saudi Arabia Oil Minister Ahmed Zaki Yamani formally proposed recently a reduction in the posted price of oil (light crude) to $9 per barrel f o b He said such a move would have the immediate effect of preventing further rises in the market price of commodities and other factors

Iran is strongly critical of Yamani's stand It was described as "a notorious joke" in the Iranian Press and he was accused of subservience to the Western oil cartels against the interests of the oil-producing countries

The 11 members of OPEC are expected to net $115 000m from oil exports this year Saudi Arabia's income would be about $29 000m, with Iran securing about $21 000m

Experts of the OPEC Economic Commission met in Beirut recently to discuss the "co-ordination of the real price of oil" and pledged to "raise it to its true value"

Meanwhile, in Vienna this week, OPEC pricing experts recommended that higher oil prices and taxes on Western companies be decided at the coming meeting (on June 15) in Ecuador.

What they recommended on prices is still a close secret, but it is known that they are pressing for the tax paid by oil companies to be hiked from the present 55% to 87% (raising the average cost of Middle East crude from $9,50 to $11).

Whatever the final prices decided upon in Quito, they will come into effect from the third quarter of this year (July 1 to September 30)

MINE LABOUR

Trouble ahead

Few people will be watching the Frelimo-Portugal talks in Luanda this week with more apprehension than SA's gold-mining industry It relies on Mozambique for nearly a quarter of its 380 000-strong Black workforce

Largely because of its relatively low wages, the industry has become more and more dependent on across-the-border labour. In 1936, 60% of its Black labour was South African By 1948 the figure had dropped to 40% and by 1969 to 30% Now it is just over 20%

On top of this, a senior General Mining man has warned that because industrial employment development had created a greater choice of employment for SA's Africans, the gold mines could lose the bulk of their locally-available underground labour within five years

The way out, he said, was to develop a strong, positive labour policy

Average earnings of Black gold miners have been doubled (to about R33 per month) since 1969, but the increase has obviously not been enough to halt the trend towards greater dependency on foreign labour

Compounding the problem of future Mozambique recruitment could be a new mood in Malawi, recruiting has been suspended by President Hastings Banda pending the result of the inquiry (due at the end of the month) into the

TABLE 1 — WHERE THE MINERS COME FROM

Country	1969 Number employed	%	1973 Number employed	%
Lesotho	64 925	17 [illegible]	76 280	20 18
Botswana	14 840	4 0	17 803	4 71
Swaziland	5 194	1 4	4 573	1 21
Malawi	69 748	18 8	106 860	28 27
Mozambique	99 799	26 9	87 129	23 05
SA	116 494	31 4	85 050	22 50
Total	**371 000**	**100,0**	**377 695**	**99,92**

Wenela air-crash which killed 77 Black miners in April.

The Chamber of Mines takes it for granted that, once the inquiry is over, recruiting in Malawi will begin again But a question that remains unanswered is why Air Malawi has not been used to ferry Malawians to the mines while the Wenela aircraft have been grounded

As Table 1 shows, the recent trend has been for fewer miners to come from Mozambique and more from Malawi The halting of recruiting by Banda, however, is likely to have checked this trend, with part of the shortfall made up from Mozambique.

The Chamber of Mines will not disclose the extent to which the shortfall has been made up or even if it has

In the meantime, a development conference, currently being held in Swaziland, has been considering a proposal that Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique and Malawi should employ a "co-ordinated manpower strategy" with regard to their workers in SA. Such a move would be a logical counterpart to the mines' own policy

Each peripheral country by itself has no power to bargain with SA for better wages and terms. If any one were to impose an embargo, SA would simply draw more heavily on the other labour catchment areas in the sub-continent.

Any move to restrict or bargain over the supply of manpower to SA would seriously affect some mining houses. Anglo American, for example, draws only a third of its requirements from Malawi and Mozambique, whereas Gold Fields has to rely on these countries for two-thirds, and Anglovaal for nearly three-quarters (see Table 2)

It seems the political uncertainties in Mozambique, and better wages and conditions in the manufacturing sector, make the case for a more competitive wage structure unanswerable

COMMON MARKET

Playing the game

If you invite someone to join your club and he turns up drunk, disorderly and without a tie, mumbling that he doesn't like the rules, you're likely to be a bit apprehensive about his next visit

This is not to suggest that UK's Foreign Secretary James Callaghan partook too freely of *vin ordinaire* on his previous trip, but the difference between the UK's manner at this week's talks in Brussels and the last occasion was pretty startling

Instead of threatening to leave the Common Market if the rules were not bent in Britain's favour, the general approach was much more conciliatory. Great emphasis was put on Britain's acceptance of the general principles of the EEC's budgetary system, while gently suggesting that the system, as it now stands, is not favourable to Britain and that inequities are likely to worsen

Boiled down to essentials, a lot of figuring in Callaghan's long speech means simply that Britain's proportionate contribution to the budget will rise, while its relative prosperity diminishes

If changing this situation is what Britain still wants — which it is — then it is still talking about a process of renegotiation But it is obvious that putting the emphasis on renegotiation has not gone down well in Germany and France diplomatically it is much better to set up a study group and examine the entire consequences for the EEC of the accession of Great Britain, Ireland and Denmark, and this is what has been done

At this stage, the situation certainly cannot be regarded as a victory for anyone But the scope for concessions on the part of the other members of the EEC is there, and Britain has made it clear that it is not going to stalk out if it does not get its way immediately

A key point to remember is that, all along, the cynical Foreign Office intention was to change the rules once Britain was within the Community, but changing the rules has proved much harder than it expected

The most important background factor of all, however, is that the US has made it crystal clear that it favours a Europe with Britain in

JAPANESE BAN

Elegant gesture?

Fears that political pressure could extend Wednesday's Japanese ban on some SA visitors to trade ties seem groundless It certainly didn't prevent negotiations this week for a further substantial coal export contract

FM understands Japanese negotiators are seeking an annual 500 000 tons from Bank Colliery, controlled by Coronation Collieries in the Anglo group. Negotiations follow a 3 553 ton sample issue from Bank last year

FM's Tokyo correspondent cabled that Wednesday's decision, announced during the first day of a three-day meeting of Japanese ambassadors to Africa, specifically bans "sporting, cultural and educational visits to Japan by South Africans" Visas will be denied for such purposes from June 15

The meeting will discuss trade ties with SA, but a SA industrialist who regularly visits Japan (it appears business and tourist visits may continue) dismissed the whole thing as "an elegant Japanese gesture"

PDL FIGURES

. . . and *FM*'s critics

What with milk, maize, coal (and now steel) price increases, the CoL is going to leap ahead yet again In the meantime, latest PDL estimates from the Institute for Planning Research at the University of Port Elizabeth (UPE) show increases ranging from just over 2% in Durban to 7,5% in Port Elizabeth between October last year and March 1974

UPE's figures almost certainly underestimate the impact of CoL increases on Africans The *FM* has been criticised (*FM* May 3) by UPE and others for preferring the (higher) PDL calculations of the University of Natal to those of UPE Ironically, UPE's latest PDL report lends support to the *FM*'s contentions

For one thing, UPE has used the official consumer price index rather than

TABLE 2 — WHO THEY WORK FOR

Group	Black miners	SA %	Country of origin: BLS %	Tropical % (mainly Malawi)	East Coast % (mainly Mozambique)
Anglo American	111 000	26	40	18	16
Rand Mines	68 000	20	20	35	25
Gold Fields	57 000	17	14	43	26
General Mining	43 000	19	23	39	19
Union Corporation	39 000	19	28	31	21
Anglovaal	28 000	13	16	48	24
JCI	20 000	17	19	28	35

two, according to the Attorney-General's office in Botswana A large share of the blame for the tragedy may well be found to rest with Shell employees who mixed jet fuel with piston-engine fuel.

The Chamber hopes to see Banda before the end of the month. If he does allow it to resume recruiting, the chances are he will insist that Air Malawi is used for airlifts in future and that miners are flown directly to and from Jan Smuts, rather than via Botswana and thence by train to the mines

So far, despite the coup in Lisbon and the confusion in Mozambique the flow of workers from Mozambique to the mines (usually two trainloads a week) has been "very good, if not better, than normal for this time of the year," according to the Chamber Last week 1 500 young recruits arrived, and on Tuesday this week another train left LM with a full complement

Whether this will change once power is transferred to Frelimo remains to be seen But even if Mozambique and Malawi allow recruiting to continue in the immediate future, the mining industry clearly cannot afford, in the longer term, to rely so heavily on their labour.

As the guerilla war against the White South hots up, both States are likely to come under pressure to hit SA where it hurts — right in its golden belly — and sooner or later they may well follow the example of Zambia and Tanzania in the early 1960s and close their borders to SA recruitment.

If that happens the industry will be in trouble. Nearly 200 000 of SA's 384 000 Black gold-miners come from Malawi and Mozambique Chief Jonathan may also renew demands for a new deal for Lesotho labour

The Chamber's mine labour organisations (Wenela and the NRC) run 26 recruiting stations in Mozambique, 7 in Malawi 11 in Lesotho, 12 in Botswana, 10 in Swaziland 13 in Natal and KwaZulu, 11 in the Transvaal, and 42 in the Transkei and Ciskei The normal inflow of recruits to the gold mines to replace men whose contracts have expired is around 20 000 per month, according to the Chamber

Over the past few months the quota has more or less been met — but not always For example, the shortfall in July was 1 700

Over and above the 20 000 replacements required each month by the gold mines, the total labour requirements of the industry are expanding with the opening of new mines.

As the table shows, the number of South Africans on the gold mines is increasing But how far this can go is an open question The Chamber is planning a concerted effort to step up the intake of local Africans Already it has changed its practice of advertising only the lowest starting rate Now its recruiting agents advertise minimum rates in six categories of jobs ranging from 120c to 300c a shift (R31,20 R78 a month).

It also hopes to improve the industry's image by using films, radio, and pamphlets But this will be no easy task It's no secret that Africans dislike and fear the mines, with their low wages, uncomfortable working conditions, compound systems and not infrequent violence

Earlier this year Anglo American had a significantly higher proportion of South Africans on its gold mines than the other groups (*FM* June 7), probably due largely to its higher wages. Since June, however, uniform starting wages have been re-introduced.

How long this can last is problematical If, as seems likely, a really serious labour shortage develops, the various mining houses will find themselves competing with one another (not to mention secondary industry) for labour Inevitably, this will drive up wages — causing problems for the marginal mines

Anglo has already let it be known that it wants to step up the minimum starting-rate from the present 120c a shift to 200c (R52 pm) by the end of the year And with the spectacular rise in the gold price, competition for labour becomes a real possibility Hopefully, it could spell the beginning of the end of an era in which the industry held wages down to rock-bottom levels for the first 70 years of this century simply by eliminating competition through its monopsonistic recruiting organisations

No doubt the African mineworkers would be glad to see the end of that cartel At least it might give the men who dig out the gold a fairer return for their labour

'FOREIGN' AFRICANS ON THE GOLD MINES

	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Lesotho	59 407	61 993	64 214	66 805	76 114
Botswana	19 595	19 549	20 511	19 864	20 339
Swaziland	5 551	6 147	5 056	4 774	4 321
Angola	6 076	4 935	4 986	4 416	2 745
Rhodesia	3	3	2	3	2
Transkei	55 738	47 907	39 430	42 655	42 136
Caprivi	222	175	274	115	[illegible]
Malawi	52 904	77 329	92 397	106 379	[illegible]
Mozambique	88 352	92 651	95 900	80 242	[illegible]
Total	287 845	310 689	323 370	325 153	344 270

LM in turmoil

Widespread rioting is one thing. Much more serious is the threatened breakdown of the entire economy

It may have had its origins in a UDI-type White backlash against Frelimo But the abortive Movement for a Free Mozambique (MFM) soon developed into a more broadly based resistance by both Black and White against Lisbon's handing over power without consulting other groups and without free elections

As one businessman put it on Tuesday: "As one who has lived here and knows the Portuguese, the position is that for some time they have felt they have not been consulted on the Lusaka Agreement They want a referendum They feel Mario Soares simply wants to get shot of them

This movement is their last chance to be consulted Responsible people are involved in the movement This is their way of pressurising to get their voice heard and there is tremendous moral support from both sides of the population "

Now it has apparently been crushed by the army what (if any) influence the MFM will have on the interim administration remains to be seen

Mozambique is now at a critical and turbulent transition stage Either the dust will settle, leading to consultation and consensus Or it will develop into something very different

For without political stability and a countrywide acceptance of a central authority with the power to make its writ run, the economy will rapidly grind to a halt

Without business confidence, investment dries up and the consequent unem-

Sharpeville; in November 1971, at the bottom after the crash that followed the excesses of 1969; and now.

Accepting that the trading situation of many of the companies in the list has changed markedly over the years, the general impression created is that the outlook for SA and its economy is more parlous now than it was in 1961. But is SA Breweries in so much worse a position? Has the outlook for the vastly expanded Woolworths chain really eroded? And, even with TV around the corner, is the mighty Argus really worth barely half what it was in 1961?

And look at the first list, headed Do yields count? It offers an average historical yield of 13,2% and many of the companies comprising it have already forecast higher payments. Few, if any, in the list will cut their dividends in the year ahead, and some will increase them, most are solid, go-ahead concerns, with excellent records over the past few years.

Times are bad, with little prospect that either inflation or interest rates will be brought under control in the short-run. The outlook could worsen if the situation in Mozambique escalates.

But it would be a super pessimist who would maintain that the outlook now is worse than after Sharpeville, and that industrial yields on offer to-day are justified on purely economic grounds.

Rather, surely, the position is that the industrial market is performing its function of peering into the future and, discounting, in current prices, the worst that it can see ahead. And maybe over discounting. Should the big battalions, the insurance companies and the pension funds, decide that the time is ripe to get off the fence and into the market, the better industrials would rise rapidly. Should confidence return with that long-awaited upsurge in the bullion price, industrials would benefit.

They could go lower in the short-term, with adverse developments across the border. But, on balance, this is no time to ditch good shares.

Coming home to roost

The Frelimo takeover in Mozambique and a new mood in Malawi could cause serious labour shortages on the gold mines

The chickens are coming home to roost. Faced almost from the word go with a shortage of Black South Africans willing to toil underground for low wages, the gold mines have gradually extended their agencies all over the sub-continent in search of labour.

Now, heavily dependent on foreign labour (see box), they have suddenly found they can no longer be sure of getting it. Already there is a shortage of about 40 000 Black miners (14% of underground requirements), largely due to President Hastings Banda's unilateral suspension of recruiting after 77 Malawian miners were killed in a Wenela aircrash in Botswana in April.

Last week, to multiply the mine managements' problems, the annual convention of the ruling Malawi Congress Party in Lilongwe unanimously requested Banda to make the suspension permanent and put a stop to recruiting for the mines. Banda's reaction was non-committal — he wanted time to consider it — and the Chamber of Mines hopes to meet him as soon as possible to discuss the position.

With Frelimo's imminent takeover of Mozambique, a question-mark also hangs over future labour supplies from there.

To what extent Banda will feel himself bound by his party convention remains to be seen. Certainly Malawians feel pretty bitter about the deaths of their countrymen. The Minister for the North, Malani Lungu, told the convention that Malawians recruited to work in SA by Wenela were badly treated and badly paid, and he blamed the deaths on the recruiting organisation's failure to look after the miners properly.

Banda's suspension of recruiting, pending an inquiry into the aircrash, seems logical enough if his only concern was for the safety of Malawians aboard Wenela aircraft. But it appears there are also political factors involved. Air Malawi is currently airlifting over 1 200 Malawians home from Jan Smuts airport every week on completion of their contracts. But the Chamber of Mines is unable to explain why Air Malawi has not also been used to bring fresh recruits on the return journey.

With the dismantling of colonialism in Mozambique, has Banda been under increasing pressure from the OAU and the liberation movements to take a tougher line with SA?

Perhaps it is significant that three of his ministers spoke up at the convention in favour of halting the supply of young Malawians to SA's gold mines. The point was also made that there was now less need for Malawians to go to SA or Rhodesia for work because more jobs were becoming available in Malawi itself.

The report of the inquiry into the aircrash is due for publication in a week or

reckons the deficit this year could be R400m R800m),

- Congestion in the ports, and
- A difference of opinion between the Reserve Bank and the Department of Commerce on the advisability of a Third Round

The validity of these reasons for holding back permits is open to question And it's a pity government didn't let people know earlier there would be a delay, and why.

MONEY MARKET

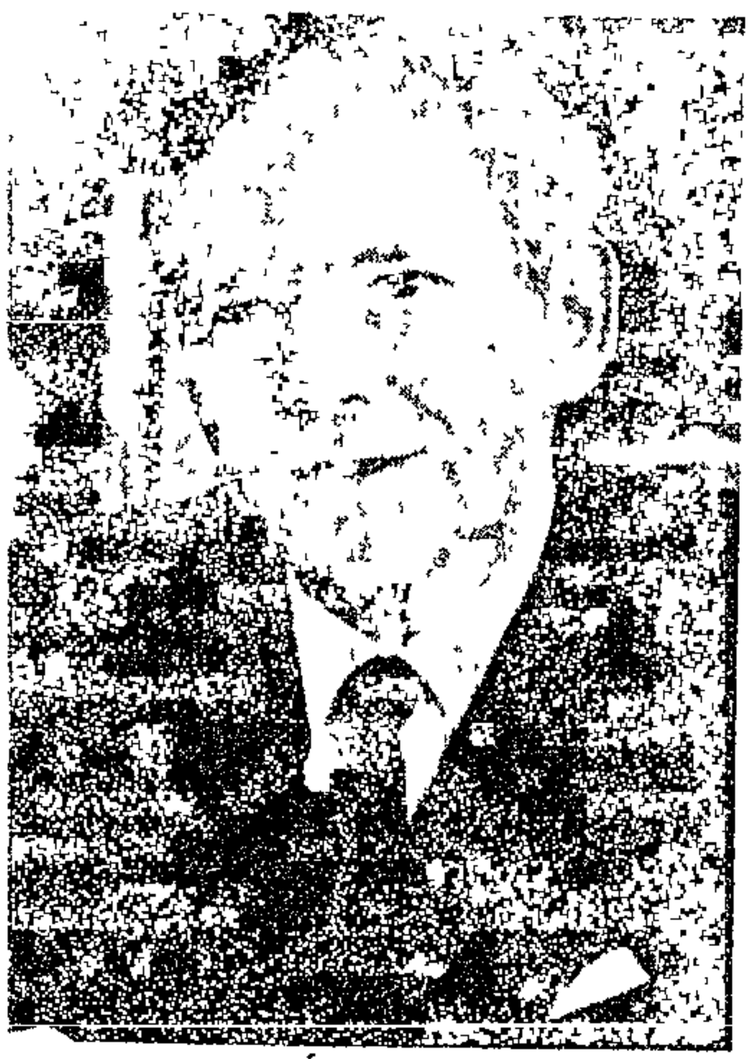
Black eyes . . .

Some operators in the money market got a shock this week. The market was jogging along with interest rates slightly down after coming through the long-dreaded August month-end with relative ease (*FM*, September 6) when Registrar Wynand Louw socked it between the eyes.

He dispatched a tough letter early this week to certain banks warning them that their liquid asset holdings must comply with legal minima by certification day (September 21).

This led to a scramble for liquid assets, which has been compounded by Barclays and Nedbank doing some "window dressing" for their September year-ends

As a result, rates have climbed on three-month negotiable certificates of deposit (NCDs) to around 14,25% (up between 1,25% 1,75% over the past week). These rates could rise even further at the end of the week



Wynand Louw . . . socking it to them

On the face of it banks should probably not have been caught napping, seeing that Reserve Bank Governor Bob de Jongh took a hard line in his annual address about bank "permissiveness" (*FM*, August 30) Louw says his April warning to the banks about liquid asset holdings should, in any case, have been warning enough

But why did he not immediately apply penalties when he saw his warning went unheeded later in the year? The fact that he did not do so is very curious, and requires an explanation

Only now does he intend fining offending banks The statutory maximum is 12% per annum on the shortfall

The gripe some banks have is that they got the impression from the Registrar that they wouldn't have to be in line until October certification day (On the 21st of each month banks have to certify that they hold sufficient liquid assets to match previous month-end liabilities)

This would have been consistent with the generally sympathetic loan treatment the market got from the Reserve Bank at the end of last month

Seeing some smaller banks were then said to be desperately short of liquid assets, the end of this week is obviously being viewed with trepidation Heavy fines, on top of the high cost of money and non existent lending margins, will knock profits badly

The longer-term outlook for the money market isn't all that encouraging either Although interest rates might soften during October, the market expects the end of the year to be tough

"SLAVE" LABOUR

Changes coming?

American attempts to blacklist imports of SA coal on the grounds that it is produced by "slave labour" could have a positive outcome for SA's Black coal miners Alan Tew MD of the Transvaal Coal Owners' Association, this week told the *FM* he was expecting the current session of Parliament to review the relevant legislation (*FM* September 13)

The United Mineworkers Union of America and the Alabama state authorities have petitioned the US Commissioner of Customs to ban SA coal from the US under Section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930, which prohibits the importation of goods produced by indentured labour under the threat of penal sanctions

The union argues that SA coal imports are a threat to the jobs of the 8 000 union members in Alabama. The union's president, Arnold Miller, maintains that "it is wrong to put American

Black coal miners . . are they prosecuted?

coal miners out of work by committing acts that violate Federal law The coal that the Southern Company wants to bring in was produced by slave labour under the threat of jail sentences"

The Union argues that SA's Black coal miners work for $3 a day or less. "They are brought in from tribal border areas and are forced to live in concentration camp conditions The men live 20 to a room and sleep on concrete slabs separated from their wives and children

"The slave labour conditions in SA enable the operators there to produce SA coal so cheaply it can be financially competitive with US coal"

The extent to which penal sanctions are in practise applied to Black miners who break their service contracts is difficult to assess The report of the Commissioner of the SA Police, tabled in Parliament earlier this month, lists 16 477 "cases sent for trial" under the "Masters and Servants Act and the Bantu Labour Regulation Act" during the year ended June 30 1973

The Secretary for Bantu Administration told the *FM* that the number of prosecutions under Section 15 (prescribing penal sanctions) of the Bantu labour Act of 1964 was not readily available but could be obtained

A spokesman for the Chamber of Mines told the *FM* the Chamber had no figures of prosecutions on the coalmines

"Whether a charge is prosecuted by the mine where he works if he breaks his contract depends on the attitude of the manager But I'm pretty sure that the general policy of the Chamber is not to prosecute"

Tew said the SA authorities had "had a hard look at the statute book Quite a

number of the laws have fallen into disuse, and I'm pretty confident that government intends to repeal some of them this session"

According to Tew, the US Customs authorities were due to begin their hearing in Washington DC on Wednesday this week He added that the prohibition in the Tariff Act could be overridden in cases where US coal supplies were "insufficient"

The Gulf Power Company of Florida — one of the Southern Company group — would be making a strong plea at the hearing that not enough low-sulphur content coal was available in the US to meet both demand and anti-pollution laws.

The TCOA, Tew said, had been selling coal to the New England Power Company since the beginning of the year

● According to the latest issue of *Mining Statistics* there were 65 576 Blacks employed on SA's coal-mines last year They earned an average wage of just over R29 a month The 7 276 Whites earned an average of R555 pm

The minimum starting-rate for novices has since been increased, however, to R31,20.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Problem rule

The Reserve Bank's seven-day "anti-speculation rule" on foreign exchange transactions — insisting that forward cover has to be arranged within seven days of entering into the underlying transaction — might have to be changed because of the difficulties it is causing.

Bankers are currently trying to adhere to the rule on behalf of their clients, and have already pointed out the problems to the Reserve Bank

The biggest difficulty is to decide when a client's foreign exchange exposure starts Most clients complain they don't know what they owe or have due to them until goods are shipped

There is also the problem of entering into a contract where six months credit is given but delivery is only taken, say, three months later The total period for which cover will be needed is therefore nine months — which the Reserve Bank will not usually provide.

There are also problems from delays in shipping, port congestion, production delays (because of strikes) and others Here, clients may find they have entered into a fixed date foreign exchange contract very early on, and have to arrange an extension — which runs up extra costs

Bankers concede that clients could try to set prices before shipping goods, and in any case should know within reason what their commitments will be Some also say they have found the Reserve Bank willing to make special arrangements for forward cover in cases of genuine need

Another way around the fixed period would be for clients to arrange option contracts These would give them some leeway by enabling them to have the option of settling (partly or fully) forward exchange commitments at any time up to the maturity date of the forward contract.

The best way out of the problem would be for banks to get their clients to be more definite about their foreign exchange exposure, while the Reserve Bank could make it clear that it is prepared to bend the rules where needed

BOTSWANA

Breaking a link

Botswana's decision to issue its own currency is no shallow assertion of nationalism For unlike Swaziland's decision to print its own notes and coins, Sir Seretse Khama's announcement was accompanied by a decision to establish a central bank

After participating in negotiations with Lesotho, Swaziland and SA to formalise and improve the existing monetary arrangements, Botswana's withdrawal comes at a time when it remains only for the draft agreement on the rand monetary area to be ratified

Sir Seretse . . . more control over money matters

According to the Permanent Secretary for Finance and Development Planning, Quill Hermans, there is no particular clause in the draft agreement that precipitated Botswana's decision Rather, withdrawal represents an acknowledgement that "no policy followed by Pretoria will be wholly satisfactory for all members of the rand monetary area" because of their different stages of economic development

Pretoria's monetary and exchange rate policies, in other words, are designed with SA's interests uppermost, not those of Botswana, Lesotho or Swaziland.

Botswana's planned withdrawal from the monetary union within two years indicates the rapid development and monetisation of its economy The volume of currency in circulation has increased dramatically over the past few years — in 1966, an IMF estimate was R2,5m, today estimates are as high as R25m

Trade relations with SA, Sir Seretse claims, have also shown a changing pattern — Botswana is exporting less to SA and, although still dependent on SA for the bulk of its imports, the proportion is diminishing

Botswana will, of course lose the benefits of an historically strong currency, as well as the freedom it enjoys in not having any balance of payments problems And its migrants in SA might be exposed to the risk of exchange losses if the rand devalues

On the other hand, the country will be able to adopt independent monetary and exchange rate policies designed to influence its own economy

Operating a central bank should also provide an opportunity to earn profits resulting from the difference between cost of liabilities and return on assets At present these profits accrue to the SA Reserve Bank exclusively, although a sharing arrangement might well have been included in the draft rand monetary area agreement

Details of the draft have not been released But whatever concessions Pretoria might have made may not have satisfied Botswana

"The advantages to Botswana of having an independent national currency and central bank," comments Hermans, "are greater than those to be derived from retention of the rand under arrangements envisaged"

MOZAMBIQUE — EXPORTS

Wot, no trains?

The Conference shipping lines still have Lourenco Marques listed on their calling schedule But ships now casting off for Southern African destinations have been told to eschew Mozambique's ports Only a handful of ships — those already in transit before last week's violence — are now bound for LM

The situation poses a conundrum If the trickle of ships dries up completely, how will SA exporters, forced to use LM

7/10/74 STAR

Malawi miners 'afraid' to work

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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East Rand Bureau

The Malawian miners at the ERPM mine were still not back at work today because they claim they are frightened to go underground in case the Basotho miners working with them attack them.

But mine officials doubt that fears for their safety are the real reason for their refusal to work. There are 1 600 Malawian miners on day shift and only 100 Basothos.

At a meeting between the miners, a representative of the Malawian Government and mine officials yesterday, the Malawians are understood to have said they wanted to go home because they were being intimidated by the Basotho.

LIGHTS, FENCES

Yesterday officials re-assured the Malawians that measures had been taken for their protection, and that underground there would be even more supervision.

More lighting has been provided in the compounds and a security fence has been put up between Malawians and Basothos. A compound manager is on duty day and night.

A miner died in the fight between Malawians and Basothos outside the south-west compound on Sunday. The fight has been described by mine officials as a "drunken brawl". At no time has there been any fighting down the shaft.

Today even fewer Malawian miners went to work than yesterday, when about 1 000 men stayed on surface. Today's estimate is that between a 1 000 and 1 300 men are off work.

Mr J. A. Tyser, acting general manager of ERPM, said the mine would have to "sit it out" until the men decided to return to work. Their contracts would not be cancelled.

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Violence at gold mine—Police move in with dogs

21/10/74 21/10/74

Cape Times Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG.—Violence flared at ERPM's south-west compound in Germinston last night when the police, who have been on standby in the city all weekend, moved in with dogs after an outbreak of trouble.

Nobody was killed or injured, according to the police.

A mine spokesman said they had experienced "a bit of trouble with the Shangaans".

There are approximately 1 000 Shangaan miners from Mozambique at the south-west compound.

Though there has been no trouble at the compound all week, police in Germiston were on standby all weekend to cope with trouble.

About 1 300 miners spent almost the whole of last week lounging around in the sun, refusing to go underground. Their action is an aftermath of a faction fight at the mine last week when a Tswana was killed and 23 miners were injured. The strike action seriously affected production at the mine, and trouble was anticipated this weekend after representatives of the strikers, all Malawians, told Malawi Government officials that they feared for their safety after last Sunday's faction fight.

The atmosphere at the mine all week has been peaceful, but mine officials expressed fears on Friday that there could be trouble because the miners were free to leave the compound at the weekend and many "drifted" towards the city to buy hard liquor.

There are about 1 600 Malawian miners housed in the compound and 1 000 Shangaans. The remaining 400 miners are from Lesotho, Botswana and South Africa itself.

The Shangaans have till now not been involved in trouble at the compound.

Brig F J Roos, the East Rand Divisional Commander of Police, said "There had been some trouble at ERPM, but the situation is under control."

He said the trouble had started after Malawi employees agitated that they wanted to return home.

22.10.74 Star

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900 strike over mine stabbing

STRIKES

Labour Reporter

ABOUT 900 Malawian mineworkers at Western Deep Levels gold mine today demanded to be sent home after one of them was stabbed to death during a film show last night.

The negotiations at the mine near Carletonville parallel those conducted at the ERPM mine on the East Rand during last week's strike by about 1,600 Malawians.

The Malawians at ERPM also demanded to be sent home after a tribal clash in which one man was killed and 23 were injured.

Sixty armed police quelled a demonstration by about 100 men at the No. 3 hostel at Western Deep Levels last night after the Malawian was fatally stabbed. He died in hospital.

ON STANDBY

According to Colonel G Polson, divisional criminal investigation officer for the Western Transvaal, everything was quiet today, but police were on standby.

Only about 300 Malawians had gone to work, he said. The remaining 1 000 to 1 200 demanded to go home and were negotiating with the management.

Later, Anglo American, which owns the mine, confirmed that negotiations were being conducted. About 900 Malawians had refused to go underground, a spokesman said. They were to be addressed by a Malawian Government representative.

Malawian mineworkers at ERPM have caused no more problems since yesterday, but most of the 1,000 Shangaans at the mine were still off work today.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS.

23.10.74 STAR

213

2 DEAD IN NEW MINE UNREST

Labour Reporter

TWO mineworkers were killed and one wounded at Stilfontein as labour unrest erupted at a third gold mine on the eve of a fresh work stoppage today which raised the number of strikers to nearly 6 000.

The two bodies and the wounded man were found in the veld near No 4 hostel of Hartbeesfontein gold mine today. One of the dead men was stabbed in the throat and the other shot.

The wounded man had been shot in the hip and was reported to be in a satisfactory condition.

No names have been released so far.

Neither the police nor mine security men fired their weapons during the night.

Tear gas, dogs, and batons dispersed rioting mineworkers who injured three policemen slightly with stones during sporadic outbreaks of violence, according to a spokesman for Anglovaal, the mining house which administers Hartbeesfontein.

Pay demand

Six mineworkers were also injured, but not seriously.

Police, who counted 106 broken window panes after the disturbances, arrested five alleged ringleaders.

The trouble followed wage demands of R6 a shift by boss boys and team leaders. They were not satisfied with the news that increased rates of pay would come into effect in December.

The night shift of 800 failed to report for duty and there was evidence that those willing to work were prevented from

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Mine workers want to go home

Gold

Cape Times 29/10/79

Cape Times Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Nearly 1 500 foreign mine-workers on the Reef yesterday decided to cancel their contracts and return home

Negotiations between Malawian miners and mining company officials at Western Deep Levels No. 3 compound, Krugersdorp, reached an impasse when the miners refused to consider anything but immediate return to their home country.

And at Germiston about 140 Shangaan miners at ERPM's south-west compound elected to cancel their contracts with the mine and go home to Mozambique.

The Krugersdorp strike, which started when 900 miners refused to go underground on Tuesday after a faction fight, has spread to include all the Malawians in the compound. The compound has been quiet since disturbances on Monday night.

The difficulty of arranging a journey for the 1 400 men is believed to be one reason why mine management are reluctant to send the Malawians home.

Watched by about 100 White and Black policemen, the Shangaans yesterday packed their things and were transported away in buses.

The miners were taken to ERPM's Angelo compound for medical examinations and the usual formalities before they are taken to the mine labour organization's compound in Booysens, Johannesburg. Trains from this compound to Mozambique leave twice a week

Mine officials addressed the 140 miners at Angelo and they were given the option of returning to work

The acting general manager of ERPM, Mr John Tyser, said that statements concerning wage increases for Black miners, announced by the Chamber of Mines, were distributed.

About 90 percent of the 1 000 Shangaans at the mine were then addressed in the compound arena. After this, every Shangaan was interviewed individually.

The men were then asked whether they wished to return to work. About 14 percent of the miners elected to go home, but might change their minds later, Mr Tyser said.

Mr Tyser said the wage issue was their only complaint, but a miner preparing to return to Mozambique said the men had taken exception to the fact that tear gas and dogs were used on them during the disturbances at the compound on Sunday night.

"We wanted money, we did not want violence," he said.

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Duisende staak by goudmyne

B/Ind 24/10/79

JOHANNESBURG

GEWAPENDE polisiemanne het gisteraand by die nommer 7 skag van die Hartebeestontein-goudmyn op Stilfontein gereed gestaan om verdere oproer onder die swart mynwerkers te voorkom. Die toestand was gespanne, maar met die ter perse gaan was daar nog nie weer probleme nie.

'n Groot aantal mynwerkers het gisteraand weer geweier om te gaan werk. Die voorbokke is voormanne en spanleiers. Hulle eis 'n onmiddellike verhoging in lone van R6,00 per skof. Baie van die ander stakers word deur hulle geïntimideer.

By die Buffelsfontein-myn was ook moeilikheid te wagte. Polisiemanne het die gebied gepatrolleer, maar daar was gisteraand laat nog geen onrus nie.

Die moeilikheid by Hartebeestfontein het eergistermiddag by die nommer 4 skag begin toe werkers daar gestaak het.

Intussen is geen ooreenkoms nog met die stakende Malawiers by die nommer 3 skag van die Western Deep Levels-myn by Carletonville bereik nie. Die hele arbeidsmag Malawiers by die skag (sowat 1 400) staak sedert gister en eis om teruggestuur te word na hul land.

By die myn was daar gister geen verdere voorvalle nie, maar die polisie van Carletonville is op 'n gereedheidsgrondslag en sal dadelik optree indien dit nodig is.

By die E R P M-myn naby Germiston staak sowat duisend mynwerkers nog steeds. Die toestand is gespanne.

Strike violence

24/10/74

Cape Times Correspondent

STILFONTEIN — Several hundred striking miners at the Hartebeesfontein mine near here were charged by 40 baton-wielding policemen last night.

The miners had stopped traffic on a public road Two miners were injured and taken to the Stilfontein hospital.

The miners were forced back across the hostel boundaries while police with firearms stood by.

The miners earlier forced through the gates of the No 7 shaft compound and moved towards the road in large crowds.

The road is used by traffic between Stilfontein and Orkney.

The miners refused to go underground if the December pay increases announced by the Chamber of Mines on Monday did not come into effect immediately.

Two team leaders who stopped miners going underground at No 4 shaft were arrested and are to be charged under the Riotous Assemblies Act.

price. So it is [illegible] mutually advantageous decisions if they were not allowed to communicate.

These two trivial games suggest one ingredient of life in an oligopoly; the strategic interplay among the rivals. In practice, the games oligopolists play are far more complicated. Each firm may have to contend with the actions of several confreres rather than only one, and each will have a range of alternatives with respect to prices, product design, merchandising policy, and many other things, instead of only a single dichotomy. On top of that, the inevitable uncertainties of business make it impossible to write down a sure-fire matrix, as we have done.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ⇒ STRIKES

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25.10.74

Miners strike spreads

Labour Reporter

ABOUT 750 men from Hartbeesfontein gold mine's No 4 hostel today joined the 2 000 strikers of No 5 hostel and demanded immediate wage increases.

The 750, who work underground with the men from No 5 hostel, refused to go to work this morning because their colleagues were off.

All is calm and a holiday atmosphere is prevailing among the strikers.

"Some have donned their Sunday best and are ambling into town to go shopping," said a mine spokesman.

SATISFACTORY

Seven of the men injured during disturbances earlier this week were "satisfactory" in hospital today. The others have been discharged. Police are still investigating the death of two men found in the veld near one of the hostels after the first outbreak of violence.

Four Mozambique mineworkers, two Malawians and one Tswana appeared briefly in the Stilfontein Magistrate's Court today in connection with Tuesday night's rioting at No 4 hostel. All were remanded to November 1 for further investigation. Their trial is expected to be held in the Klerksdorp regional court.

Two of the men are charged under the Riotous Assemblies Act. They are Alberto Nqina (32) and Pugusio Sebetso (32).

The other five, charged with public violence, are Brighton Wayson (23), Salvador Ubisi (19), Machacane Salmeda (32), Gasnuke Saulé (20) and José Weise (27).

DEMANDS

The 1 400 Malawians on strike at Western Deep Levels gold mine since Monday were still off work today and demanding to go home.

A spokesman for American, which manages the mine, confirmed today the men were not being sent home because of transportation difficulties.

A spokesman for the Chamber of Mines, which arranges transport for mineworkers, said the men would have to be fitted in with the normal return traffic of 1 400 Malawians a week, if a decision was taken to send them home.

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28.10.74 ⇒ STAR

Malawi miners may stay

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ⇒ STRIKES

Labour Reporter

THE Chamber of Mines has not decided whether to send home the 1 400 Malawian mineworkers striking at Western Deep Levels.

The men stopped work after a fatal stabbing during a cinema show last Monday night. They have since insisted on being sent home.

Anglo American, which administers the mine, has declined to say whether the Chamber of Mines has been asked to send the men to Malawi. The chamber had nothing to say on the matter today.

This seems to indicate that some hope is held that the men may return to work. The chamber has stated that it would be difficult to send home so many men since seats on Air Malawi are fully taken up by other Malawians who have completed their contracts of 18 months or two years.

The situation at Hartebeesfontein, where about 11 000 mineworkers of different nationalities were involved in sporadic strikes last week, returned to normal on Saturday.

Mining

Black labour for SA

STAR 5/11/74

The Star's Africa News Service

Salisbury — The Chamber of Mines here has declared its opposition to a Rhodesian Government decision to allow the recruitment of local Black labour for South African mines.

A chamber spokesman said in view of a shortage of African mine labour in Rhodesia "we are very surprised at what the Government has done."

The spokesman declared that the chamber had not been consulted by the Government before the decision was announced.

He added that the chamber would raise the matter with the Government as soon as possible.

A statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs last night said "The Rhodesian Government has agreed in principle that African labour may be recruited in this country for work on South African mines."

SAFEGUARD

Talks were in progress, the statement said, between the Government and the relevant South African authorities.

The discussions were aimed at the "formulation of a recruiting programme which will produce satisfactory results and yet safeguard the labour supply to Rhodesian primary industries such as agriculture and mining."

The move could spark off a confrontation between the Rhodesian Government and the mines.

A mining official today said: "If the door is open to South Africa to hire Africans from here we can expect our industry will lose many of its existing men because of the better conditions offered down south."

Minimum wages for Black unskilled underground coalminers in South Africa is R1,20 a day shift compared to 28c in Rhodesia.

RDM 12/11/74

STAFF REPORTER

RUSTENBURG.

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AT LEAST seven workers are missing and could be dead at Impala Platinum Mine near Rustenburg after a slimes dam burst yesterday morning. The slimes swamped buildings and vehicles and poured down No 4 shaft.

As bulldozers struggled yesterday to clear thousands of tons of mud which had swamped mine premises, the mine's managing director, Mr Bing Jackson, said: "The death toll will not be catastrophic, but a number of people must have died".

He said the only way to establish exactly how many workers were missing was by a head count — and the result would be known only by this morning.

But a preliminary count has indicated that two Whites and five Africans are not accounted for.

Mine employees at the scene said a military helicopter had spotted a body more than a kilometre from No 4 shaft.

The two missing White miners are Mr G. Vermeulen, a forman fitter, and Mr B. de Klerk, a foreman. The names of the mising Africans are being witheld pending notification of their next-of-kin.

The mine's technical manager, Mr C. R. Netscher, said the exact number of missing men was not known because the records were in one of the flooded buildings.

Underground

The mine employs about 26 000 people and there were about 4 000 workers underground at No 4 shaft when the dam wall collapsed at 11.15 am and mud flooded the area.

Offices and buildings near the 104,5 ha dam were "extensively damaged" when the wall collapsed When the mud settled, it was 3 m deep in places

Shops, offices, the shafts winch, a crusher and other machinery that lay in the path of the mud were swallowed up or crushed into a tangled mass.

About 85 cars parked at the shaft were carried hundreds of metres by the deluge and left battered on their sides.

Lights in the mine went out and phones would not operate Most workers in No 4 shaft sensed trouble and came calmly to the surface.

Most parts of the main shaft are linked to the surface by a series of inclines and many workers were able to leave easily.

But the worst is feared for the handful working at the bottom of the main shaft, which does not have easy access to the surface

"They were probably buried," said Mr Jackson.

He said the amount of slime in the shaft could not be great.

"Only thin, watery mud could have been washed down," he said

Trapped

"It's also possible that another six people have been trapped in the buildings The fine mud probably rushed from the dam, breaking windows and bursting into buildings. People must have been trapped against the walls.

"The chances of everyone escaping are remote," he said

The burst was caused by exceptionally heavy rains on Sunday night

"There was a cloudburst over the dam," said Mr Jackson. "Statistically, it should never have happened.

"About 75 mm of rain fell in a short time — the chances of this happening are slight"

Proto teams are not being used in rescue work because the shafts are not blocked, Mr Jackson said

Last night, a mine spokesman said No 4 shaft would be "out of action" for several weeks

"The labour force will be allocated to other shafts where it can be used productively," he said. "The mine is covered for loss of profits and damage to installations from storm"

● An African worker died from multiple injuries in a fall of ground at a Stilfontein Gold Mine shaft yesterday, General Mining and Finance Corporation announced. His name will be released after his family are told

● More pictures on Pages 2, 4, 5.

want to return home

RDM 14/11/74

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By MIKE ENGELBRECHT

MORE THAN 1 500 Malawian miners at the West Rand Consolidated gold mine, near Krugersdorp, went on strike yesterday and told mine officials they were tired of working and wanted to go home.

Last night, about 100 riot policemen with dogs were on standby at the mine for possible trouble.

The chairman of the mine, Mr J. C Fritz, said last night the strike started on Tuesday when about 20 Malawian miners refused to go down with the rest of their shift

They were asked what the problem was and the reply was "We are tired of working We want to go back home"

Yesterday, another 500 went on strike.

"We told the men that we would send them home, but that we had problems with transport, as we were not allowed to transport them on private aircraft after the air disaster in Botswana," Mr Fritz said

"More of them then assembled in the south and the main compounds These two compounds host about 5 000 workers Of these, 1 500 men started a peaceful strike

"They refused to go down on shift and handed in their pass books and said they would like to go home."

The mine manager, Mr R J van Emmenis, said: "It has nothing to do with pay The increases have been approved from December 1 It has nothing to do with fighting either."

Security officials and blue-helmeted mine police, Black and White, were brought to the mine from as far afield as Klerksdorp and Carltonville.

In September last year, the compound was the scene of a riot in which more than 30 Africans were injured. The riot was sparked by a quarrel between a Malawian and an Angolan.

Flares and tear gas were used to quell it.

to work

STAR 15/11/74

RDM 15/11/74

The number of Malawian miners who have stopped work and demanded to be sent home from the West Rand Consolidated gold mine rose to 1 692 today.

A spokesman for General Mining, which administers the mine, said the situation in the south compound had improved.

But in the main compound it had deteriorated.

GONE HOME

The men had remained calm and peaceful and production had so far not been noticeably affected.

A spokesman for the Chamber of Mines revealed today that all 400 Malawians from Western Deep Levels, who were sent to the mine labour organisation's hostel last Friday after a similar stoppage, have left for Malawi.

He understood there had been spare capacity on the routine flights which, normally, just cope with the return flow of about 1 400 Malawians a week.

Negotiations are still in progress to end the closure of labour recruitment from Malawi which was imposed after an air crash in April.

Staff Reporter

ABOUT one third of the 1 600 Malawian mine workers at the West Rand Consolidated Mine who asked to be returned to Malawi returned to work yesterday.

The mineworkers wanted to go home before their contracts expired.

On Tuesday, 13 workers refused to go underground. The number increased to more than 300 on Wednesday and by yesterday morning 1 600 men asked to be released and repatriated.

A mine statement said there was no dispute over wages "or any other matter".

Though some of the mineworkers returned to work they still insist on going home.

According to Mr W. W. Nelson, a spokesman for the Chamber of Mines, the miners would have to wait "quite some time" before going home because of transport difficulties.

"President Banda has laid down that Malawian workers may only travel via Air Malawi. There are a limited number of flights.

"The seats are booked long in advance by miners who finish their contracts in the normal way," he said.

The Chamber of Mines used to run a private air service to take Malawian workers from Francistown in Botswana to Blantyre and Lilongwe in Malawi.

This service was stopped after the air crash in April in which 75 Malawians died.

The general manager of the mine, Mr R J. van Emmenis, said of the mineworkers:

"They have not been aggressive and some of them are now collecting their pass books and drifting back to work.

"We are rationalising the work underground and so far production has not been affected."

A spokesman for General Mining, which controls the mine, said that the stoppage "is not a strike".

"Many of the men who have demanded to be sent home before the end of their contracted period are still working," he said.

There are about 3 600 Malawians in the two compounds at the mine.

One dead in mine faction fight

STAR 18/11/74

RDM 18/11/74

Staff Reporter

ONE Shangaan miner was killed and 15 other African miners injured in a riot at Western Deep Levels Mine near Carletonville yesterday evening.

About 100 miners were involved in the riot. Police were called from Carletonville and about 15 policemen armed with teargas and dogs arrived at 7 pm.

The crowd dispersed after teargas canisters were thrown.

The incident started when a Shangaan was stabbed in the [illegible] near the concession [illegible]. He went back to No 3 hostel on the mine where he collapsed.

First aid was administered and he was taken to the mine hospital.

After the stabbing, violence erupted and another Shangaan was killed.

The general manager of the Western Deep Levels Mine, Mr E. C. W. Brereton, said last night that everything was quiet and that the police had the situation under control.

A SHANGAAN was killed yesterday in a faction fight at Western Deep Levels gold mine, but only a few men stayed away from work today.

Police with dogs restored order after firing a few canisters of tear gas at an unruly mob which did not exceed 100 men at any one time, according to a spokesman for Anglo American.

He said none of the 15 men reported injured was in a serious condition and no serious damage had been done to property.

At the West Rand Consolidated gold mine the work stoppage of Malawians grew to 2 100 men on Saturday. Today about 600 returned to work

There have been no disturbances among the Malawians who have stated that they are tired and want to go home.

MINE FIGHT: 15 HELD

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Following a disturbance at the Durban Deep Mine B Compound at Roodepoort on Monday night 15 Malawi mineworkers were arrested yesterday for public violence.

One of them is being held in connection with the stabbing of a Shangaan mineworker.

It is alleged that a Malawi mineworker stabbed a Shangaan mineworker in a fight

The compound police arrested the Malawi mineworker and a group of his colleagues tried to rescue him from the police but were not successful.

Then they threw stones and bricks at the compound police and administrative buildings and the kitchen and a number of windows and doors were damaged.

3 000 Malawi miners want to go home

20/11/74

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — General Mining announced today that 3 066 Malawian mineworkers at the group's ERPM gold mine have downed tools and want to go home.

The mining house said 400 of the men were sent to the Chamber of Mines labour organisation's hostel yesterday to await their flights home.

"We are not standing in the way of the remaining 2 666, but they will have to wait their turns," said a spokesman.

The move follows sporadic work stoppages and similar demands from thousands of Malawians on other South African gold mines over the past month.

Only one group — about 400 men from the Western Deep Levels Mine — has returned to Malawi without completing contracts of 18 months to two years.

Elsewhere, such as at West Rand Consolidated gold mine where only about 230 of the 2 100 who wanted to go home on Saturday are still off work, the situation tended to return to normal.

The general manager of the chamber's mine labour organisation, Mr Tony Fleischer, today denied that a delay in the return of men with expired contracts is behind these demands.

NO BACKLOG

"There was a backlog some months ago, but there is very little now," said Mr Fleischer.

He said Air Malawi was taking the men home at the rate of 25 flights of 74 men each.

Anglo American announced today that arrangements were being made to send home about 100 Mozambique mineworkers from Western Deep Levels gold mine who went on strike after the death of a Shangaan in a tribal clash at the weekend.

IR 26/11/74 STAR

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Miners quit

ABOUT 28 Malawian mineworkers at East Rand Proprietary Mines have terminated their employment at the mine following last week's labour unrest, a spokesman said.

The spokesman said the remainder of the 2 000 mineworkers who stopped work last week because they wished to return home have returned to work following managements reminders that they were under contract.

The workers who have handed in their notice will have to complete a month's notice and will be repatriated afterwards, the spokesman added.

Otherwise the mine is functioning normally, he said.—Reuter.

Oil: joint

still missing at mine

6/12/74 DM

Staff Reporter

THE BODY of a Black miner has been found 19 km from km from the Impala Platinum Mine slimes dam which burst last month He had been washed there by the mud avalanche

Yesterday, mine officials described how about 20 miners were used to move down the 19 km by 2,4 km wide stretch of mud and slime, searching for two bodies still not recovered

"The miners linked hands and moved along the 19 km of mud probing with sticks for the bodies," said Mr Frans Gelderblom, acting underground manager of the ill-fated mines' No. 4 shaft.

"There are still six bodies missing — four down the shaft and two on the surface.

"We expect to recover the bodies of the men in the shaft, but as for the two on the surface, well, your guess is as good as mine."

Miners are working around the clock in an effort to clear the remaining 22 m of mud from the shaft bottom. They are being hampered by the mass of twisted steel and cables still down the shaft

Mr Gelderblom praised the efforts of the 500 men working in and around the shaft.

An official inquiry into the causes of last month's disaster will be held next week.

wages

STAR 5/12/74

Own Correspondent

Durban — Sharp competition from the mines has forced the sugar industry in Natal to plan across-the-board wage increases for its Black workers in time for next year's cutting season.

Because the mines' traditional labour supply sources, such as Malawi and Mozambique, are drying up, recruitment campaigners have been mounted in the Transkei and in KwaZulu which are the two basic sources of labour supply for the sugar industry.

Mineworkers' wages have recently been increased and it is understood that they are likely to go up again in the new year.

While some millers have already granted wage increases, further pay rises are expected to be announced in January At present, a cane cutter earns R1 a working day but this is expected to be increased to R1,25 when these increases are announced.

BONUS

At Tongaat, cutters' wages have already been increased from 80c a day to R1,25 and the bonus from 85c to R1 This means they can now earn R2,25 a shift

Commented Mr Bruce Morris, chairman of the South African Sugar Association "What is happening is that labour is going to where the money is and that means the mines"

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ERPM div down

10/12/74 RDM

Financial Reporter

LABOUR shortages at East Rand Proprietary Mines and the expected fall in profit in the last quarter have resulted in the final dividend of 40c being 38 per cent down on last year's figure

The labour complement is down to 42 per cent of requirements

Rand Mines other Transvaal gold mines, Blyvooruitzicht and Durban Deep, have not reduced dividends

ERPM's interim was 75c in June and last year's final was 65c

Durban Deep's final is unchanged at 50c, although this is a 10c fall from June's interim. Blyvooruitzicht's interim has risen from 35c to 50c A final dividend of 55c was declared in June

Rand Mines says the need to retain funds for capital expenditure by Durban Deep, together with a decrease in production caused by a decline in the number of underground workers, has necessitated a static final dividend

There are two main areas of spending The first concerns the recently granted application to peg claims over a large area to the south of the mine and the second concerns development of additional areas on the Kimberley and South Reef horizons.

Welgedacht Exploration's dividends will be declared in April and October of each year No dividend is being declared this month.

(213) F.M 13/12/74

MINE LABOUR

Blantyre bound

There's no more graphic proof of the large-scale outflow of Malawian miners (*FM*, December 6) than Air Malawi's introduction last week of a 143-passenger VC-10 on the Johannesburg-Blantyre shuttle.

Since May, Air Malawi has been repatriating miners with completed 18-month contracts at a rate of more than 1 600 a week. In addition, 2 500 men have left before completing their contracts, reportedly because of groundless fears that if they did not leave the mines by the end of the year the mines would not allow them to go home.

More than 45 000 Malawian miners have returned home since April, with 2 000 still waiting for seats.

The mines most severely affected are Western Deep Levels, West Rand Consolidated, and ERPM (*FM*, last week).

This week the VC-10 is making nine flights to Blantyre in addition to the 26 BAC-111 flights already reserved for mine labour. The planes return empty, as President Kamazu Banda is still prohibiting new recruiting. However the VC-10 purchase would hardly make commercial sense if a resumption of recruiting in Malawi was not in the offing.

The introduction of the VC-10, which was recently purchased from ailing British Caledonian Airways, should end speculation that the Malawi shuttles will soon be switched from Jan Smuts to the newly-completed Lanseria Airport north of Johannesburg. The VC-10 is too big to land at Lanseria and Air Malawi told the *FM* there were no plans to switch the smaller BAC-111's there.

What is likely, however, is that Wenela DC-3s will be coming to Lanseria with whatever recruits the industry is able to sign up in Rhodesia.

78 hurt in fight

STAR 17/12/74

Labour Reporter

About 2 000 Malawian mineworkers today demanded repatriation after weekend faction fighting in which four men were killed and 78 injured at Impala Platinum's Bafokeng mine.

"The situation is delicate at the hostels on all three mines and efforts are being made to restore normal conditions," said a statement issued by Union Corporation on behalf of Impala Platinum this afternoon.

According to the statement, the "serious disturbances" were at the Bafokeng South mine hostels and minor damage was caused to the hostels.

TEARGAS

Earlier The Star had learnt that three Malawians were killed and 70 other mineworkers injured in a clash between Malawians and Pondos at Bafokeng's No 2 hostel yesterday

Mine security men used teargas and dogs to quell the disturbance without police assistance.

The trouble is thought to have started on Sunday

To Page 3, Col 9

mine fight

STAR 17/12/74

(From Page 1)

when a Xhosa induna tried to arrest a Malawian answering a call of nature.

The fighting erupted at about 5 pm yesterday and was subdued by 10 pm.

Police said the arrest of two Malawians in connection with the death of another man at Impala's Wildebeesfontein mine nearby at the weekend had no bearing on the faction fight

Fourteen mineworkers were killed at Bafokeng mine last month when a slimes dam burst at the mine's No 4 shaft. An official mine inquiry and inquest has been held, but the findings have yet to be announced

stay out

STAR 18/12/74

Labour Reporter

The situation at Impala Platinum's Bafokeng south mine hostels remained unresolved today with about 2 000 Malawians refusing to go to work and demanding repatriation

But there has been no recurrence of the tribal strife which resulted in four men being killed and 78 being injured at the weekend

Late this morning Impala announced that there had been no more tribal friction or incidents and that work was proceeding normally at the Bafokeng north and Wildebeesfontein mines.

The district commandant of police at Rustenburg, Colonel A W Erxleben, inspected the scene of the weekend's unrest today.

NOT CLEAR

Impala has not made it clear whether the 2 000 Malawians are to be sent home, but it would seem as if no move of that kind is contemplated until the problem has been thrashed out between management and workers' representatives

Air Malawi introduced nine weekly flights by a transcontinental VC-10 aircraft about two weeks ago to cope with the return flow of Malawians, many of whom also broke off their contracts of not less than 18 months.

A spokesman for the Chamber of Mines said today that all workers awaiting repatriation, except for the Impala group, would probably have arrived home by Christmas.

STAR 18/12/74

Two died at mine

Two Mozambique mineworkers were killed at the East Driefontein Gold Mine, near Carletonville, on Saturday night, it was learnt today

A spokesman for Gold Fields said the first death occurred when a Pondo was thrown out of his room by colleagues for making a nuisance of himself.

It is alleged the man stabbed dead a random passerby, a Shangaan. Other Shangaans, seeing the body left for the arrival of police, stoned the hostel's kitchen and the Pondos' windows In the fight another Shangaan died

sent home

RDM 18/12/74

Staff Reporter

ABOUT 2 000 Malawian mineworkers refused to work and demanded to be sent home yesterday at Impala Platinum's Bafokeng Mine, Rustenburg

Four of their number died and about 78 were injured in a prolonged faction fight at the mine's hostel on Monday evening when Malawian and Pondo miners clashed from about 5 pm

A spokesman for Union Corporation, which administers Impala Platinum, said the mine had been peaceful yesterday.

The disturbances were quelled by mine security men using teargas and dogs. Rustenburg Police arrived after the fight ended at about 10 pm and patrolled the area to prevent looting by Pondos

"Minor damage" was caused to mine property during the fighting

The spokesman was unable to say what had caused the fight or how many were involved "It was not a pitched battle but skirmishes between groups which broke out over several hours"

When the Malawians refused to go underground yesterday they were asked at 7 am to elect a spokesman to negotiate with officials but they had not done so late yesterday

"We are hoping that once we start talking, then most of them will return to work," the spokesman said.

Colonel A W Erleben, of the Rustenburg Police, confirmed the refusal to work was a result of the faction fight

"It cannot be called a strike in terms of the Industrial Conciliation Act. They only want to go home," he said.

Police continued to stand by yesterday in case of trouble

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Mineworkers demand to go home

RUSTENBURG — A total of 2000 Malawian mineworkers demanded repatriation yesterday after faction fighting in which four men were killed and 78 injured at Impala Platinum's Bafokeng mine.

The situation is delicate at the hostels on all three mines and efforts are being made to restore normal conditions, a statement issued by Union Corporation said.

The statement said minor damage was caused to the hostels.

Earlier it was learnt that three Malawians were killed and 70 injured in a clash between Malawians and Pondos at Bafokeng's no 2 hostel.

Mine security men used teargas and dogs to quell the disturbances at the hostel.

The trouble is thought to have started when a Xhosa induna tried to arrest a Malawian answering a call of nature. — SAPA.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (213)

STAR 18.12.74 Page 3

Malawi miners stay out

Labour Reporter

The situation at Impala Platinum's Bafokeng south mine hostels remained unresolved today with about 2 000 Malawians refusing to go to work and demanding repatriation.

But there has been no recurrence of the tribal strife which resulted in four men being killed and 78 being injured at the weekend.

Late this morning Impala announced that there had been no more tribal friction or incidents and that work was proceeding normally at the Bafokeng, north and Wildebeesfontein mines.

The district commandant of police Rustenburg, Colonel A W Erxleben, inspected the scene of the weekend's unrest today.

NOT CLEAR

Impala has not made it clear whether the 2 000 Malawians are to be sent home, but it would seem as if no move of that kind is contemplated until the problem has been thrashed out between management and workers' representatives.

Air Malawi introduced nine weekly flights by a transcontinental VC 10 aircraft about two weeks ago to cope with the return flow of Malawians many of whom also broke off their contracts of not less than 18 months.

A spokesman for the Chamber of Mines said today that all workers awaiting repatriation, except for the Impala group, would probably have arrived home by Christmas.

213

RDM 19/12/74

as sit-in continues

Staff Reporter

TALKS started yesterday between disgruntled Malawian miners and officials at Impala Platinum's Bafokeng South Mine, Rustenburg.

A crowd of about 2 000 Malawians continued to sit in the courtyard at the mine's No 2 compound demanding repatriation

They had refused to work and demanded to be sent home since Pondos and Malawians clashed on Monday in a faction fight that killed four and injured 78.

Mr J. W. van den Munckhof, the mine's general manager, yesterday said the miners had elected a group of spokesmen who were negotiating with officials. He said they were demanding repatriation because of the faction fight.

The fight was apparently sparked off on Sunday afternoon by a dispute between a Pondo policeman and a Malawian miner. A prolonged series of skirmishes between groups armed with knobkieries and knives started at about 5 pm on Monday and ended at about 10 pm.

Mine security men using dogs and teargas, aided by police, quelled the unrest The mine had since been peaceful, Mr Van den Munckhof said.

The Union Corporation's spokesman said a Malawi Government representative had spoken to the miners and told them the Malawi Government and the Chamber of Mines felt they should fulfil their contract before being sent home.

Mr Van den Munckhof said there was no indication that the discontent was linked with the tragedy of the slimes dam which burst at the No 4 shaft last month, killing 10 Black and two White miners.

A Rand Daily Mail reporter was last night prevented from interviewing the Malawians' representative, as this had been "strictly prohibited by Union Corporation."

The Malawian Government representative, a Mr Peters, who negotiated with them, had already returned.

for a climax

RDM 20/12/74

By JOHN IMRIE
Labour Editor

THE BATTLE for a five-day week on the gold mines appears to be heading for a climax

After months of negotiations the Mineworkers Union has rejected as unacceptable the Chamber of Mines offer of a five-day week in exchange for further African job advancement

At the same time the union's general secretary Mr P J "Arrie" Paulus, has drafted a Christmas message to his 17 000 members, virtually promising them a five-day week if they "stand united when our executive council asks them to do so."

This suggests he may be on the verge of carrying out a threat made in the past, namely to halt the mines on selected Saturdays if negotiations fail

In the Christmas issue of the union's journal, the Mineworker, Mr Paulus claims that a trial five-day week was secretly and successfully conducted at Vaal Reefs Mine recently.

Production at the mine, according to Mr Paulus, actually rose by 15 per cent, and the union sees no reason why it should make further job concessions to Africans.

Mr Paulus' message says "The Chamber has accepted the principle of the five-day working week but wants certain concessions with regard to Black labour in exchange — concessions we are not prepared to make."

Mr Paulus would not comment yesterday on the concessions which had been sought by the Chamber of Mines nor would he spell out clearly what action the union was planning

This suggests that a last-ditch attempt is to be made by the union to obtain a five-day week on more acceptable terms before carrying out its threats.

RDM 20/12/74

By JIM KIDSON

ABOUT 2 500 Malawian miners have broken their contracts with East Rand Proprietary Mines and returned home.

They have been leaving ERPM at a rate of about 600 a week over the last month.

Another 1 500 to 2 000 are awaiting transport home.

Air Malawi has been using a VC 10 jet to fly the miners out of South Africa.

The managing director of ERPM, Mr R. J. J. Fourie, said miners who had completed their contracts were being given first option on aircraft taking them back to Malawi

The number of Malawians flying home daily from South African mines varied from 50 to 200, he said.

It was not possible to say how many miners had completed their contracts and how many had not, as the aircraft carried both categories.

Mr Fourie said ERPM still had miners who had not terminated their contracts, but he did not say how many

Those Malawians who returned home were being replaced by men from the homelands and other countries.

Until the present unrest, ERPM employed about 6 500 miners from Malawi.

STAR 20/12/74

A tense atmosphere — with police and 1 700 disgruntled mineworkers facing each other, prevailed at Impala Platinum's Bafokeng south mine hostel, near Rustenburg.

Armed police, some carrying gasmasks, were patrolling the perimeter of the open veld near the hostel which the Malawians vacated with their belongings after a faction fight in which three men were killed and 78 injured.

Perhaps 300 metres from the main body of police, the striking mineworkers — who refused to return to work and insist on being sent home — were have a meeting.

A reporter and a photographer of The Star became the first pressmen to witness such a scene since the first eruption of similar incidents on South African gold mines in recent months

After passing groups of police and mine security men unchallenged, they attempted to reach the central gathering of Malawians.

The two men were greeted with menacing stares and shouts of "kill them" (in Swahili) as their car passed groups loitering on the fringes of the meeting.

Some distance ahead the pressmen were forced to turn back when gangs shouting abuse advanced on the car with raised fists.

RDM 20/12/74

Staff Reporter

ABOUT 300 Malawian miners at Impala Platinum's Bafokeng South Mine, Rustenburg, yesterday agreed to return to work

The rest of the 2 000 demanding repatriation continued to camp next to a football field at the mine compound, refusing to work The 300 returned to their hostels early yesterday

While the crowd sat chanting but peaceful, talks continued between the mine management and the Malawians' representatives.

A spokesman for the mine said the discontent arose from the faction fight at the mine this week between Pondos and Malawians, which resulted in four killed and 78 injured

Other complaints emerging from the talks were against "policeboys," and that Malawian accommodation was scattered over an area.

A Malawian labour representative who negotiated with the miners declined to comment yesterday on the talks.

Temporary lighting and feeding arrangements have been made at the compound for those taking part in the sit-in.

Rustenburg police continued to keep watch on the mine, without appearing in any show of force

The 2 000 Malawian mineworkers on strike at Impala Platinum's Bafokeng South Mine were today still camped on a field near the No 2 hostel.

The general manager of the mine, Mr J W Munckhof, said today the men were still demanding to be sent home to Malawi, but "there is no chance that the miners' demands will be met"

STAR 20/12/74

20.12.74 STAR

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Disgruntled miners raise fists

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defy police

RDM 21/12/74

Staff Reporter

TENSION mounted last night as about 2 000 sullen Malawian mineworkers refused to obey police orders to take their belongings back to their dormitories and resume duties.

The incident took place at the Bafokeng South Impala platinum mine, Rustenburg, after a tribal fight between Malawian and Pondo mineworkers in which three men are said to have died.

Because of what the police described as the "bad mood of the mineworkers," a Rand Daily Mail reporter and a photographer were warned to leave immediately or face arrest for entering a Bantu Trust land without written permission from a magistrate.

"For your own safety leave immediately," said a senior police officer.

Trouble is alleged to have started at the mine on Sunday when a squabble between a Malawian mineworker and a Pondo induna flared in a fight, during which the Malawian was fatally injured, and then into tribal clash. Two other mineworkers died and several others were injured.

According to unofficial sources, trouble built up during the week until, yesterday, all the Malawians at the mine carried their belongings from their rooms and into the veld near the compound They demanded to be sent home and were determined to remain in the veld until their demands to be sent home were met.

DEADLINE

White police with riot equipment and police dogs patrolled the area, but the miners refused to go back to the compound.

Officials at the mine would not give the "Mail" any information.

At the West Rand Consolidated mine, Krugersdorp, a spokesman said all Malawians at the mine — about 43 per cent of the African work force — would have been repatriated by September. At Western Deep Levels, Carletonville, a spokesman said it was possible that the last Malawian would have left the mine by March.

No African mineworkers have been recruited from Malawi since the air crash in which 74 men died in April this year.

At the Venterspost mine, one of the most dependent on Malawian workers, a spokesman declined to comment on the effect if the miners returned home

RDM 23/12/74

By MIKE ENGELBRECHT

POLICEMEN armed with sten guns and R1 rifles fired over the heads of crowds of mineworkers who rioted in a compound housing about 4 000 Africans at the Crown Mines Number Five shaft, Johannesburg, last night.

About 150 South African policemen armed with guns, batons and tear gas were sent to the compound, just off the M2 motorway, after fighting broke out. The warning shots dispersed the fighting crowds and rioters ran for cover.

A large number of alleged agitators were caught and detained in one section of the mine compound while more police arrived on the scene.

The detained men were guarded by mine police with security dogs

The fighting broke out shortly after 9 pm in the C compound which hosts about 4 000 miners. The miners clashed with each other after a rival group tried to stop the night shift miners from going underground.

A mine lorry was overturned by a group of rebel Malawians and stones, sticks, broken glass, bricks and empty ammunition boxes were scattered in the courtyard of the compound where the fight started

About 50 metres from the gates of C compound a group of African miners were gathered in the Lower Main Reef Road. They escaped injury when they ran from the compound as the fighting broke out.

A mine official said last night there were no casualties during the flare up. He said that the mine security police tried to break up the fighting but it became so intense that police were called in to safeguard the lives of other miners.

The mine official said the fight was brought under control very quickly and efficiently by the South African Police, who probably prevented a lot of bloodshed.

Fight

He said the fight started at the Number Five Shaft from where it was carried on into the compound.

One group of Malawians were on strike earlier in the day and refused to go underground. They wanted to go home, they said.

Later last night at the shaft, when the night shift miners were gathering to go underground, the striking group of Malawians threatened them with assault.

The miners resisted and a fight broke out, the official said.

Early this morning about 100 armed policemen and mine security officers, with dogs, were still on the scene.

The police will remain at the compound today to prevent further troubles. A large group of rioters were detained outside the compound late last night.

At the Village Main mine near Eloff Street Extension in Johannesburg a group of Malawian mineworkers were also refusing to go underground. They also said they wanted to go home.

A fight broke out here as well and five mineworkers were injured. Some of them were stabbed with screwdrivers, but no damage was done to the buildings.

A mine official there said the miners wanted to go home. "You know the old thing," he said.

All was quiet at the mine early this morning and a number of mine policemen were on guard to check the situation.

For the past eight days, about 2 000 Malawi miners who have refused to go back to work after disturbances at the Bafokeng South Platinum mine, Rustenburg, have been refused mine rations and have used the open veld as a lavatory writes Steve Kgame.

After tribal clashes at the mine in which four mineworkers, three Malawians and a South Sotho, were killed, the Malawians asked to be sent back home.

RDM 24/12/74

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barrier

By HOWARD PREECE
Financial Editor

GOLD HIT a record fixing of $193 in London yesterday afternoon to bring it within striking distance of the so-called "magic barrier" of $200.

It was fixed at $192,25 in the morning, compared with the previous record set last month of $190,50 and with last Friday's second fixing of $187,50.

The main reason behind the new upsurge, according to Swiss dealers in Zurich, was renewed optimism on the outlook for gold when private ownership for United States citizens becomes legal at the beginning of next year.

FORECAST

At the beginning of 1974, Dr Nico Diederichs, the Minister of Finance, forecast gold would hit $200 this year.

It might just make it, but even if it just falls short, Dr Diederichs can be satisfied.

A rise in the gold price of $10, if sustained is worth about $180-million a year to South Africa.

Yesterday's price was $77,50 up on the figure on January 1 this year

Gold — US fever sends it climbing, Page 20

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INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

STAR JOHANNESBURG MONDAY DECEMBER 23 1974

STAR ⇒ 23-12-74.

Work boycott follows riot

Labour Reporter

Only 800 of the 1 267 Malawian mineworkers at the C hostel of Crown Mines were at work today after police used teargas to subdue a threatening mob last night

About 150 Johannesburg policemen were rushed to the 3 494-man hostel last night when unrest broke out as Malawians tried to prevent other men from going on night shift at about 9 pm.

As the crowd threw stones and smashed windows, several rounds of teargas were fired by the police

Brigadier J B Wiese, the Johannesburg district commandant of police, emphasised that neither police nor mine security men fired any shots or carried machineguns

Brigadier Wiese was one of several men hit by pieces of coal thrown by the mob but nobody was injured either among the rioters or law-enforcers

All the police withdrew at 2 am except for one or two patrol cars which were still there this morning.

Mr D D Waterman, managing director of Crown Mines, said strikers who had been questioned said they were tired and wanted to return to Malawi

Three Malawians were slightly injured in a fight involving five Malawians at Johannesburg's Village Main gold mine yesterday It was no more than a weekend brawl, according to a spokesman for Anglovaal, which administers the mine

1267
800
467

RDM 24/12/74

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Staff Reporter

BETWEEN 400 and 500 Malawian mineworkers are likely to be repatriated as a result of Sunday night's riot at Crown Mines and the men's refusal to work yesterday.

The Chamber of Mines is hoping to charter additional aircraft to fly home the striking Malawians, but this will depend on approval being received from the Malawi authorities.

So far Malawi has given permission for only one extra aircraft, a Hercules. The Hercules has been chartered by the chamber to supplement the Air Malawi service, which is now proving inadequate to handle the number of miners clamouring to be sent home

Last weekend seven Air Malawi flights were cancelled, with the result that some miners whose contracts have ended are being delayed in getting home

Mining officials fear these extra delays will serve to fan rumours circulating among Malawian miners that those who are not home by Christmas will not be allowed back

They have been told by top Malawi officials, including the Malawi Minister of Labour, that the rumours are completely untrue, but are apparently not convinced.

In a statement issued yesterday, Rand Mines said 471 Malawian workers failed to turn out for the morning shift

The miners who, it is expected, will be repatriated, are some of the 1 250 Malawians housed in the mine's C compound, to which police were called on Sunday after miners prevented a lorry loaded with Malawian night-shift workers from leaving the compound.

Miners who continue to refuse to work will be housed elsewhere on the mine pending their repatriation

The statement says workers on the lorry were threatened when they refused to disembark There was some coal throwing, which caused minor damage to windows.

The coal throwing continued until South African Police and mine security officers fired tear-smoke to disperse the crowds After that coal was thrown sporadically and finally ceased before 11 pm.

The statement emphasises that the disturbance was quickly and easily brought under control and denies that shots were fired No-one was injured

But a mine security policeman, who was the only official who could be reached by newsmen at the Crown Mines C Compound immediately after Sunday night's disturbances, told Rand Daily Mail reporters that shots had been fired over the heads of the rioting miners, who had then dispersed.

The public relations officer for Rand Mines had no information about the disturbances when telephoned and referred the "Mail" to the mine manager at Crown Mines, Mr P. G. D Pretorius

Mr Pretorius said he was not prepared to give any information about happenings at his mine. An attempt was made to reach him again 30 minutes later, but there was no reply to his phone.

RDM 24/12/74

By MIKE ENGELBRECHT

A WHITE shift boss at the Kimberley shaft of the City Deep Mine, Johannesburg, crawled back into an incline shaft to save the life of a boss boy after 13 miners were overcome by gas fumes in the mine.

All 13 miners were afterwards admitted to hospital with carbon monoxide poisoning

The miners — two Whites and 11 Mozambique Africans — were working in the shaft late last night when they were suddenly overcome by the gas

The shift boss, Mr Nick Mare, crawled back into the shaft to rescue the boss boy who was unconscious in the mine

Mr Mare and his White colleague, Mr Willem du Plessis, were both admitted to the Johannesburg Chamber of Mines Hospital.

The 11 Africans were taken to the Crown Mines Hospital where they were also admitted.

Only one of them was in "bad condition", a hospital spokesman said early this morning.

Mr Mare said from the hospital last night that the miners managed to get out just in time. The gas overcame them very quickly

The gas accumulated in the shaft after blasting work earlier in the day

"Something must have happened to the ventilation system and fresh air was cut off," Mr Mare said

The Black miners were later identified as Mr Alfred Raisa, Mr Ruland Dhlammini, Mr William Bengweni, Mr Enoch Size, Mr Alfredo Sangozi, Mr Kosow Benard Mr Lebong Makwena, Mr Zinkana Chiboma, Domingo Bume, Rafael Antonio and Antonio Manuel.

700 miners out on strike

RDM 31/12/74

Staff Reporter

ABOUT 700 Tswana miners came out on strike at the Prieska copper mine yesterday following a faction fight on Sunday night.

Three miners — two Tswanas and one Xhosa — were killed in the fight. Another 35 miners were injured 13 of whom are still being treated in hospital.

About 600 of the strikers walked off the mine property yesterday with the apparent intention of returning to their homes.

According to a mine spokesman, however, more than 200 of the strikers have so far been persuaded to return to the mine hostel and discussions between the mine management and the remaining strikers are continuing.

The faction fight on Sunday which was brought under control by mine security police using teargas and dogs, began in the hostel but quickly spread to the surrounding veld.

Only minor damage was done to the hostel.

The faction fight began with an altercation between a Hlube miner and a Xhosa. Rumours then spread that a Tswana miner had assaulted a Xhosa.

The Sunday night shift at the mine was not affected by the fight, but the number of miners reporting for duty yesterday morning was about 300 lower than normal. Then Tswana miners coming off night shift joined the 300 strikers. Production will be affected.

About 3 200 Africans are employed at the mine, of whom 1 257 are Xhosas and 1 335 are Tswanas.

It was announced at 9.30 last night that all but 12 of the miners who struck yesterday, and left the mine property with the apparent intention of returning home, had returned to the mine.

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SMR 27/12/74

Labour Reporter

With Christmas over and the New Year only a few days away, one of the rumours behind Malawian labour unrest on South African mines should lose its potency

At least that is the hope expressed today by Mr J W van den Munckhof, general manager of Impala Platinum's Bafokeng South mine where a strike by about 2 000 Malawians is in its 11th day

The rumour, which was at least partly responsible for the Malawians, demands for repatriation, was to the effect that those who were not repatriated by Christmas or by New Year would be in some kind of difficulty.

Mr van der Munckhof said about 70 more of the 2 000 strikers encamped in the veld near the mine had returned over the holidays to resume work.

There were still signs of intimidation, with orange - tagged leaders moving back the strikers every time the mine management attempted to speak to them, he said

The absence of any reports to the contrary suggest that Christmas was a quiet period with no recurrences of recent faction fights and labour unrest on the mines.

RDM 28/12/74

Staff Reporter

HUNDREDS of striking Malawian miners at Bafokeng South platinum mine near Rustenburg made a dramatic return to work yesterday — by jumping aboard and clinging to the sides of jolting police trucks

The rush for the trucks by 580 men started as police vehicles left the strikers' camp for the mine.

A strong force of armed police and police dogs held off other strikers who tried to prevent their colleagues from leaping onto the trucks They made six arrests.

The strange exodus occurred when a police convoy escorted a group of about 20 former strikers to the camp to collect their belongings.

Col A. W. Exleben, police District Commandant for Rustenburg, said that the men had returned to the compound on Boxing Day, but had not taken their belongings away with them as it was raining at the time.

They went back to the squatters' camp yesterday and gathered their possessions under police guard, and as they set off in convoy on the return trip hundreds of other strikers rushed for the police trucks to return with them.

The police called for further vehicles Although six men were arrested for trying to stop the exodus, no one was injured, Col Exleben said.

The attitude of the other watching workers was not hostile, he said

Later, a further 112 strikers returned to the compound of their own accord. They walked calmly across the intervening no-man's-land without any hindrance from the men remaining in the camp

"We can't understand it," Col Exleben said "Some of them say they're afraid, and demand escorts. Some sneak out at the dead of night and some just walk over in broad daylight without any trouble at all."

Col Exleben revised earlier estimates of the number of strikers. He said that at one time there had been a total of 4 000 About 1 500 had now returned — mainly, until yesterday's dramatic exodus, in small groups of 20 or 30 at a time.

Sunday Express 29/12/74

By PETER BUNKELL

THE 2 000 Malawian mineworkers at the Bafokeng Platinum mine near Rustenburg moved out of their massive makeshift township near the mine compound yesterday afternoon and returned to their hostels.

The migration — which ended a two-week strike — began on Friday night when a heavy rainstorm destroyed the multi-coloured shelters which the strikers erected after moving out of their quarters.

A detachment of police, headed by Rustenburg's district commandant, Colonel A. W. Erxleben, moved into the camp on Friday to pick up the belongings of strikers who had returned to work earlier. About 600 men jumped aboard police vehicles and were taken back to their quarters.

Six strikers who tried to stop their colleagues were arrested.

Charged

The colonel said the arrested men had not yet been charged. There had been no violence, but the police would watch the situation closely.

In an interview yesterday, Colonel Erxleben told me that a heavy rainstorm on Friday night had left the remaining strikers demoralised and they all returned to the main compound. All of them have said they will return to work.

Earlier this week the strikers complained that they had no food, fresh water, or toilet facilities The mine management laid water pipes and erected temporary toilets. Rations were delivered to the township.

When I visited the strikers' camp on Friday I was told the men had refused to use the toilets. The hessian covering had been ripped from its wooden frames and dragged several hundred metres to the camp where it was used to strengthen the multi-coloured shelters which the men have built in the thick bush.

Wasted

Food delivered to the men was thrown to the ground and mine officials decided to take no more until they were sure it would not be wasted. The strikers bought their own provisions from nearby stores.

I learned this week that because they were in breach of contract, the strikers were prohibited immigrants, but the authorities did not plan to take any action.

When the workers began their strike there were about 4 000 of them camped outside the mine compound.

They demanded repatriation, but mine authorities said it was impossible to send them home.

Hampered

Mr Byng Jackson, managing director of Impala Platinum, told me on Friday: "These men have not completed their contracts. Throughout the country there are thousands of Malawian mineworkers who have completed their contracts and are legally entitled to go home. If we suddenly place the strikers at the head of the queue we will really have a problem on our hands."

Mr Jackson said senior mine officials did all they could to persuade the men to return to work. Their efforts were hampered by agitators who had assured the strikers they would be home within the next 10 days.

Among the demands of the mineworkers were:

- That they all be housed in the same area because they are outnumbered by other tribes in the compound.
- That stores be built in their own area because they were afraid of attacks by other workers when they went to buy provisions.
- That additional Malawian police be appointed to protect them.
- That the mine authorities make every effort to find personal possessions which were looted during the December 16 disturbances.

Mr Jackson also told me on Friday the strikers had not caused any trouble since their move from the mine compound, but added: "It is an awkward situation We just want the men to return to work and complete their contracts. Our efforts are being hampered by their leaders who tell them there is no need for them to complete their contracts because they will soon be put on a plane back to Malawi.

"Most of the strikers are simple peasants, but their leaders certainly do not fall into this category. Whenever we try to talk to the men the leaders form a line between us and then start chanting. The White man has been so badly discredited in Central Africa that the leaders are able to twist everything we say."

RDM 3/1/75

Staff Reporter

ABOUT 3 500 Basotho miners returned to work last night after a strike which paralysed the Saaiplaas Gold Mine for two days.

Production at the Free State mine stopped on New Year's day when the miners did not turn up for work.

The strike was the result of discontent among the Basotho miners over new legislation introduced by the Lesotho Government, clamping a compulsory deferment of pay on all contracts entered into after January 1, 1975.

There were no incidents, and police at nearby Virginia did not intervene.

The miners returned to work after being addressed by their personnel manager, Mr R. Maggs, and the managing director of the mine, Mr G. Nisbet.

Although only two-thirds of the Black labour force were from Lesotho, all the miners had refused to go underground, Mr Nisbet said.

The new legislation will affect all contracts entered into from January 1. It means that after an initial period of a few months, 60 per cent of the miner's pay will be deferred until the end of his contract. It will be paid, together with interest, on his return.

A spokesman for the Chamber of Mines pointed out that the scheme, which was voluntary until the new legislation by the Lesotho Government, has been in force for other nationals for some time.

STAR 7

213

Three die in mine clash

2/1/75

Labour Reporter

Three Black mineworkers were killed and 35 injured in a clash between Tsonga and Tswanas at the Impala Platinum Rustenburg mine in the Western Transvaal last night.

About 300 workers, a quarter of the morning shift, failed to report for duty today.

Mine police used teargas and dogs to quell the disturbances, which erupted in the hostel and moved into the veld outside, a spokesman for Anglovaal announced.

The dead were two Tswanas and one Xhosa. Their names will be disclosed after the next of kin have been informed. Two of the bodies were found in the veld after daylight.

Only 13 of the injured are in hospital. It is not known how badly they are hurt. Damage to the hostel was slight.

Some of those refusing to work are men whose contracts had expired and who had stayed on optionally. They will be discharged in the normal way.

But the mine has refused to discharge those refusing to work and asking to be sent home before the end of their contracts. Most of these are Tswanas.

STAR 3/1/75

213

1 700 gold miners strike

Labour Reporter

A second gold mine was hit today by a strike in protest against the compulsory deferment of pay for Lesotho mineworkers, as the first strike ended.

About 1 700 Basotho workers at the Western Deep Levels Gold Mine, near Carletonville, did not turn out for work today in protest against the Lesotho legislation, Anglo American has announced.

The strike is confined to the 6 000-man No 2 shaft hostel of Western Deep Levels.

But operations returned to normal today at the Free State Saaiplaas Gold Mine, where 5 000 Black workers were striking for the same reason yesterday and on Wednesday. The men called off the strike yesterday after being addressed by Lesotho Government representatives.

Under the new legislation, affecting mine labour contracts signed this year, 60 percent of the pay of Basothos is held back for payment with interest on their return home.

Witbank reports that an estimated 400 Tswana mineworkers at the Prieska Copper mine have left the mine to make their way home after Sunday's tribal fight in which three men died and 35 were hurt.

About 85 percent of the mine's Black work force reported duty today.

RDM 4/11/75

213

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Staff Reporter

THE Lesotho Minister of Finance, Mr E. R. Sekhonyana, yesterday appealed to all Basotho mineworkers to work normally until their pay representations had been considered.

This appeal was made after 1 700 Basotho mineworkers at the Western Deep Levels gold mine near Carletonville went on strike late on Thursday night, one day after Basotho workers at the Saaiplaas gold mine in the Free State had returned to work after a two-day strike which paralysed the mine.

The miners are striking over a 60 per cent compulsory deferment of pay on all contracts entered into by Basotho mineworkers after January 1, 1975.

The Western Deep miners agreed to go back to work this morning after they met with two representatives of the Lesotho Department of Labour at the mine yesterday.

Sapa reports that Lesotho officials and a delegation from the South African gold mining industry yesterday held a meeting in Maseru to consider representations made by the mineworkers on the deferred pay system.

In a statement released in Johannesburg yesterday, the Chamber of Mines said:

"It was agreed at the meeting that the representations made by Basotho mineworkers would be given full consideration by the Government of Lesotho at meetings to be chaired by the Prime Minister, Dr Leabua Jonathan, early next week, after which a further statement will be issued."

The meeting in Maseru yesterday was between Mr Sekhonyana, senior officials of his department and the South African delegation led by Mr D Etheredge, a director of the Anglo American Corporation, and Mr A. C. Langton, the vice-president of the South African Chamber of Mines.

The delegation also comprised officials of the Free State Saaiplaas gold mine.

The statement said: "It was emphasised that though the Deferred Pay Act was now operative, the door was still open for all Basotho miners to put forward to the Government any comments and suggestions they may have relating to the scheme.

"It was also agreed that Basotho mineworkers should utilise their existing channels of communication on the mine and or the offices of the Lesotho labour representative in South Africa to bring to the attention of the Lesotho Government such comments and suggestions."

It said Mr Sekhonyana assured the delegation that the new system had been introduced in the interests of the mineworkers".

The Rand Daily Mail reporter writes that officials at the Prieska copper mine in the northern Cape have begun recruiting to fill the places vacated by the 400 Tswana miners who broke their contracts this week.

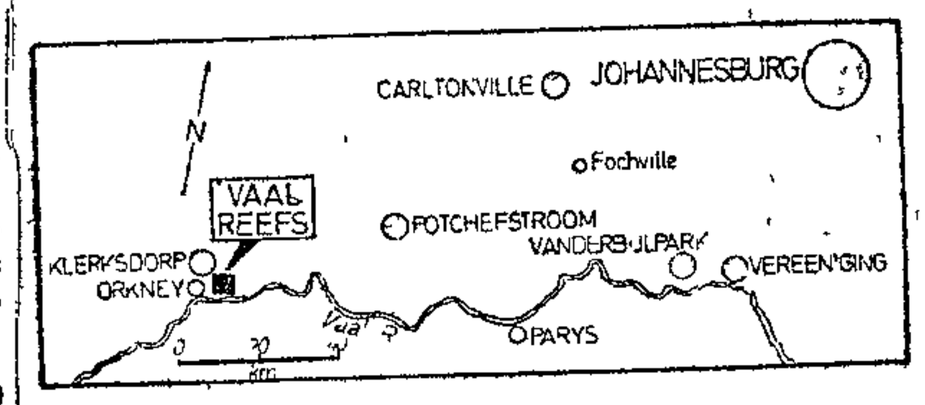
The miners who refused to work have been making their own way home.

About 85 per cent of the work force reported for duty yesterday and the replacement recruiting is expected to bring production back to normal within a few days.

STAR 6/1/75

28

Almost 12 000 Black mineworkers were on strike at the Vaal Reefs gold mine near Klerksdorp today after a night of rioting in which five were seriously hurt.



Cars were stoned and extensive damage was done to a store, a changing house, a bar and a kitchen at the No 2 shaft hostel of Vaal Reefs North during the rampage.

An undisclosed number of police from the Western Transvaal and the Northern Free State remained on the scene today

Vaal Reefs is the third gold mine hit by labour unrest arising from Basotho mineworkers' dissatisfaction with the deferment of 60 percent of their pay under Lesotho legislation affecting contracts entered into from this month.

Arrested

The trouble started yesterday afternoon when Black workers, said to have threatened a strike in the morning, broke into a bar at Vaal Reefs South

Four men were reported to have been arrested while allegedly wrecking the contents of the bar

Western Transvaal police arrived after 4 pm and were later relieved by police from Welkom.

At about 10 pm fresh trouble started almost simultaneously at the No 1 and No 2 shaft hostels of Vaal Reefs North, on the Transvaal side.

Rampage

Anglo American reports: "At 10 pm a number of Basothos in each of the hostels of No 1 and No 2 shafts went on the rampage, seriously injuring five senior Black employees and extensively damaging the store, changing house, bar and kitchen at No 2 Shaft hostel.

"Police units moved into the hostels and used teargas to restore order.

"This morning the entire labour force of about 9 500 Black employees, apparently persuaded by the Basotho workers, refused to go underground at No 1 and N 2 Shafts.

"At the south shaft about 1 700 Basothos have gone underground, although 2 300 still refuse to go on shift."

Brigadier H L Benade, Divisional Commissioner of police for the Western Transvaal, said the situation had remained tense overnight, but no firearms had been used and there had been no confrontation between the police and the strikers.

JOHANN STULTZ

RDM 7/1/75

ORKNEY.

POLICE USED teargas to disperse strikers at the South Vaal Gold Mine last night when rioting broke out for the second time in two days.

At the same time, it was disclosed that in Sunday's disturbances two Africans — a policeman and a miner — were killed and a number injured. Some are still in hospital at Stilfontein.

A total of 13 Africans were injured in riots which broke out simultaneously at the South Vaal Mine near Orkney and across the Vaal river at Vaal Reefs North, which, with the south shaft, forms the Vaal Reefs complex.

Production has now come to a stop at three shafts of Vaal Reefs — the biggest mining complex in the world — where 12 000 African miners have gone on strike.

Units of armed police, who said they expected further rioting to break out, continued their standby at the mine throughout last night

Details of the latest disturbances are not clear, but a mine spokesman said it appeared that Basotho strikers were persuading miners of other nationalities to swell their ranks

Early yesterday 12 000 miners went on strike At the South Vaal shaft 2 300 workers did not turn up and at Nos 1 and 2 shafts more than 9 500 did not report for duty.

The Basothos say they are upset and unhappy with the Lesotho Government's decision that from last Wednesday, 60 per cent of their pay has to be banked in their home country

A spokesman for the Anglo American mining group said discussions had been held with the miners at South Vaal. But the workers demanded to discuss the matter with the Lesotho Government or with a representative of the mine labour recruiting company.

A representative told the miners that only workers who joined South African mines from the beginning of the year were affected by the decision

Rowdy

Groups of men then became aggressive and rowdy and police were alerted An undisclosed number of police from Welkom in the Free State were also on standby at the mine

Throughout yesterday the strikers gathered in groups at the hostels, but no serious incidents were reported until last night's riot.

At one stage about 1 000 miners gathered 0 5 km from No 1 shaft on the north side They became more aggressive while talking

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Jonathan upset over mine strike

THE LESOTHO Prime Minister Chief Leabua Jonathan, last night said he was dissatisfied with the conduct of about 12 000 Basotho mineworkers striking at the Vaal Reefs Gold Mine in South Africa

Speaking in a radio broadcast from Maseru Chief Jonathan said nothing could be achieved through force. Negotiations were being held, and his government would take into account the opinions of Lesotho mineworkers in South Africa

He explained that the legislation against which the mineworkers were striking was nothing new. Only difference was that money previously invested without interest in South Africa, would earn interest when deposited in a banking account in Lesotho

Chief Jonathan urged Basotho mineworkers to respect the peace — Sapa

The Star

January 7 1975

213

Time for change in mine labour

FACTION fights sometimes culminating in rioting and killing have occurred sporadically throughout the history of South Africa's mining industry—but never with the same frequency and violence of the mass stoppages in the past 15 months

This latest flare-up at Vaal Reefs—allegedly sparked off by Lesotho legislation affecting deferment of wages — confirms the impression that the attitude of migrant workers has undergone considerable changes. They are now more critical, more restless, more inclined to overreact at the slightest provocation.

And this at a time when mine managements are taking very positive steps to improve the rates of pay and working conditions of their migrant employees

It is easy, as some have tried to do, to attribute the 'miners' restlessness to the work of "agitators" This throws up a convenient smokescreen which conceals rather than reveals the basic causes It is axiomatic that agitators can only succeed in their work when suitable conditions exist

If the mining industry—and particularly the gold mines—are to continue to perform their vital economic function in this country labour peace is essential and the real reasons for continuing unrest need to be acknowledged

There are many. A lack of communication between management and the labour force Resentment against the indunas and the induna system. The monastic, monotonous life in the compounds. Lack of personal control of wages A rhythm of life which becomes tedious and unsatisfying. Changes in the outside world, bringing changing attitudes.

In essence this distils to one prime factor the unnaturalness of the South African system of migrant labour In Europe the migrants are not housed in barracks; they are free agents But not here, thousands of men are herded together to work, to eat and to drink And often to brood. This is where change must come

Detainees: a sickness in our midst

THIS new year of 1975 is one —we are told on all sides— full of hope and promise for South Africa None of it has yet reached the 40 or so South Africans detained incommunicado under the Terrorism Act Despite assurances that they would be brought to trial "early in the new year," there is still no official word of a date.

Many of them have been in jail since late September, when the police broke up pro-Frelimo rallies in Durban and Turfloop (An irony in itself, when the Government similarly expresses such enthusiasm for the new Mozambique regime) Later, other young people were arrested in Johannesburg, Cape Town and elsewhere

The detainees are thought writer and the mother of a six-month-old baby, as well as many students and officials of SASO Their exact number is not known, nor all their names, nor their precise whereabouts They have no access to their relatives or lawyers they simply disappeared into police custody and have not been heard from since

Such are the fearsome powers with which the Terrorism Act arms the Security Police, and at this stage the impression mounts that these powers are being seriously abused Three months is surely long enough to formulate charges If the police have no case, they should speedily release the detainees—thereby making at least partial amends for this unjust, damaging sick-

Peace talks or not, R... remain in a state of wa... GRAHAM BARRETT r... he spent in the Eastern

Deter hasn reac here

As the news of the ceasefire in Rhodesia's terrorist war crackles from the farmhouse radio, the farm manager (we'll call him Bill) picks up the revolver beside his armchair

"This stays right with me," he says, breaking it open to check the rounds.

For a pair of young South Africans on holiday in the Eastern Highlands, Rhodesia's plight takes on a frightening reality

This picturesque region, lush with mountains and vegetation and long favoured by vacationers from "down south," is taking no chances with terrorism

★ ★ ★

It's sundowner time on one of the country's biggest coffee farms. Between sips of brandy it is sobering to look over a line of pine trees and see Mozambique Bill savours his Scotch, a gift from we South Africans and the best present you can give a luxury-conscious Rhodesian. He has his name down on the list at the nearest liquor store and this year he hopes to get two bottles

"I don't care what the radio says about peace talks and ceasefires We've been on the alert for months here and we intend to stay that way"

"If the 'ters' strike tonight they'll hit within the next hour or so," he says "That's the normal pattern . strike early and have the rest of the night to get away"

We are comforted by the four-metre-high security fence which rings the garden Floodlights on tall wooden poles are placed at strategic intervals, ready to make daylight at the touch of a bedside button

"Up in the north-east they've never known a terrorist to venture within the security fence, so if we get hit here they'll open up from outside the fence with grenades, rockets, the lot, for about 10 seconds

"Then they'll run That's the pattern And it helps if you can offer some return fire

"They're cowards, mostly Their hearts aren't in it

They're given weapons, told how to use them and then thrown over the border Now if we were up against White merce-

of Robert Ruark's "Uhuru," which tells of Mau Mau atrocities in Kenya

"The Whites up there were half asleep," she says "In Rhodesia we're wide awake and ready" And she is a dab hand with a rifle to prove it

No terrorists strike during our 10-day stay.

On the second day, Helen, my companion from Johannesburg, is alone in the kitchen when the dog growls and performs in peculiar fashion. Helen drops to the floor

Cariboı

Countries in Europe's Common Market are going to need zoologists as customs men. The European Court of Justice in Luxemburg is insisting on split customs duties for caribou and reindeer, even when their meat is tinned as goulash

The EEC commission is puzzling over how to help tariff officials tell the beasts apart

The trouble goes back

STAR TURN by BERRY

FIR THE BL

New violence at Vaal Reefs

STAR 7/1/75

MINE RIOT TOLL 4 DEAD, 22 HURT

STAR 7/1/75 (213)

Striking Black mine-workers congregate around the administrative buildings at Vaal Reef South today while police vehicles — on the right and in the road — keep a "watchful eye" on strikers.

Labour Reporter

Two more outbreaks of violence yesterday and one early today have raised the toll at the strike-bound Vaal Reefs gold mine to four dead and 22 injured.

While the atmosphere remained tense in parts, the overall situation was easier today with an estimated 9 000 men on strike compared with about 12 000 yesterday.

One of the three men killed yesterday was a Mosotho mine security man who was reported to have been "dozing peacefully" minutes before an angry group attacked him in the No 1 Shaft hostel at 11 am

Five men were arrested on charges of public violence in the sudden flare-up which lasted only a few minutes, according to Brigadier H L Benade, Divisional Commissioner of Police for Eastern Transvaal

Iron bars

Two more deaths followed when fighting broke out between Basothos and Xhosas at the Vaal Reefs South hostel late in the afternoon.

Police, using "tear smoke" and dogs, took a "short while" to subdue the fighters who were armed with sticks and iron bars, according to Colonel J D Palvie, Acting Divisional Commissioner for the Northern Free State

"Tear smoke" was used again early today at the No 6 Shaft hostel where the bar and kitchen were looted and damaged in a fresh rampage.

The fourth death yesterday was that of a "first aid man" who was one of five men seriously hurt on Sunday.

The names of the dead and injured have not yet been released.

Deputations

"Talks between management and deputations of strikers are going on constantly," said an Anglo American spokesman

● The Star's Africa News Service reports that two Lesotho Cabinet Ministers left Maseru for Johannesburg yesterday and are believed to be having talks with mine authorities in the city about the strike.

They are the Minister of Finance, Mr E R Sekhonyana, who is also responsible for labour matters, and the Minister of Justice, Mr C D Molapo.

The only reaction in

To Page 3, Col 2

7/1/75 (62) Star 7/1

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See Page 19

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8/1/75 RDM 8/1 (64) 213

By JOHANN STOLTZ

ORKNEY. — Several thousand Basotho mineworkers armed with knobkieries twice stormed police as violence flared up again at Vaal Reefs gold mine near Orkney last night.

Police had to use force to quell the disturbances, according to a police spokesman.

Police had earlier taken complete control at the Vaal Reefs mining complex, where thousands of Basotho miners were demanding to be sent home.

Fifteen minutes after the first attack on the police last night the situation was reported to be quiet and under control

About an hour later there was another disturbance which was again quelled. Some people were injured, but details will not be known until later this morning.

Shortly before midnight a mine security officer said the mine was quiet.

Strict security measures existed yesterday and, according to a spokesman, anybody trespassing on the strike-bound mine grounds would be "arrested immediately"

Riots and violent fighting at four hostels of Vaal Reefs, including the South Vaal Gold Mine hostel, a kilometre away across the Vaal River in the Free State, have claimed four lives in three days.

Twenty-two miners had been admitted to hospital before last night's trouble. One was yesterday said to be very seriously injured. Damage to buildings was estimated at thousands of rands.

Nine African miners have been arrested since the riots started on Sunday. They will probably appear in court in the next few days.

More than 8 000 miners, mostly Basothos, were still on strike A mine spokesman said it was unknown how many had decided to go home

Armed police patrolled the mine throughout the day. Others, including units from Free State towns, were asked to be on standby last night.

About midday yesterday battle - dressed policemen stopped a group of Basothos who walked from the South Vaal hostel towards the bridge across the Vaal River.

They had their belongings with them and it was believed they intended walking to the Orkney railway station.

But they were asked to wait for transport.

Suffered

Earlier, the police used teargas to disperse strikers when rioting broke out at the No. 6 hostel at Vaal Reefs. About 2 000 miners did not report for duty afterwards.

During the previous night the police also used force when fresh riots flared up and fighting broke out.

A spokesman for Anglo American said negotiations between the mine management and the strikers were continuing.

Two special trains left Klerksdorp last night taking about 1 800 miners back to Lesotho.

The first train took about 800 from Orkney and the second about 1 000 from Vierfontein.

An Anglo American spokesman said they were requesting a number of trains for striking miners who wished to terminate their contracts.

About 2 000 were scheduled to leave, but it was uncertain how many would be repatriated, he said.

Production losses at Vaal Reefs cannot be estimated at this early stage, according to a spokesman for Anglo American, which administers the mine.

He said that as the labour situation was very fluid it would be irresponsible to guess what effects on production the strike might have.

● At Bracken Gold Mine, Far East Rand, 64 Basotho mineworkers were arrested by police yesterday after they allegedly tried to prevent other miners from going to work.

A mine spokesman said: "There has been no strike at Bracken.

"The situation was similar to that at Vaal Reefs, but only on a much smaller scale.

"The important difference is that there has been no work stoppag," the spokesman said.

The Argus
JANUARY 8 1975

213

(2) 213

Career, not a contract

THE continuing unrest among South Africa's Black gold miners is alarming. Even if the number of people directly involved is relatively small, considering the great number of Black miners at work on these mines, the situation that persists will cause considerable unease. After all, gold is the glittering cornerstone of South Africa.

The present immediate cause of trouble among Basotho mineworkers appears to have been provoked by the Lesotho Government's decision to interfere in the way in which the workers' pay is handled But this is only one in a string of recent incidents

Basic to the whole issue is the migrant labour system Hundreds of thousands of men are airlifted often quite literally out of the bush and transferred to a strange, frequently frightening environment, away from everything that has been familiar and comforting to them. It is a dislocating wrench, however much attempts are made to make the new life bearable

Not that it is possible to eliminate this system overnight, even if it were desirable And, in fact, as it exists at present, it has numerous advantages for all concerned, not least the workers themselves Many of them would never otherwise be able to accumulate any sort of little cash reserve at all. And the economies of several of South Africa's neighbouring states depend greatly on the money that the Black miners burrow out of the rock.

More attractive

But it seems clear that there will have to be adaptations to the system to make it work better, and to make it more attractive. Also, it is economically dangerous for South Africa to be dependent so greatly on foreign labour that could be withdrawn for political reasons, or because of a misunderstanding, or through a whim, and it is sensible that the mines are turning their eyes toward labour pools closer home, in the homelands, in the Black urban townships, on the farms, and so on.

The need is to create and maintain a more stable Black labour force One way to start is to create much more settled and satisfying conditions for at least the more skilled Black miners — to give more of them the chance of a career not a contract, in other words, and a career that they can serve with their families, as White miners can

Changes are taking place all the time. But all the groups concerned — the South African Government, the other governments involved, the employers and the trade unions in the industry, for a start — are all going to have to make careful and sometimes painful adaptations if they are to serve their own self-interests, and the interests of South Africa, best

2/3

Star 9/1/75

Staff Reporters

ONE THOUSAND Botswana mineworkers were transported home from the troubled Vaal Reefs gold mine yesterday — adding a new dimension to the exodus of foreign African miners and bringing the number who have left South Africa in the last two days to nearly 6 000.

A spokesman for Anglo American said the Botswana miners had indicated they would be prepared to return to work once the situation on the mine had settled. Their contracts have, however, been terminated and they have been paid off.

A further 1 000 Basotho were also railed to Lesotho from Vaal Reefs, and special trains have been laid on for the rest of the week to repatriate the remaining 6 000-odd Basotho strikers.

Vaal Reefs has an African labour force of 33 000.

Riots early yesterday took four lives, bringing the total of deaths since Sunday to eight and the number of the injured to 37. Five of them are critical.

Armed police are patrolling the mine. The situation was still tense, they said last night.

One African who died in the fighting was an elderly miner who was murdered after telling the strikers he was in favour of the Lesotho Government's decision that from the beginning of the year 60 per cent of Basotho miners' pay has to be banked in Lesotho.

He was dragged to a lawn at the South Vaal mine hostel and beaten to death with sticks and iron bars as an "example", said a mine official.

The situation at the other troubled gold and coal mines yesterday was:

● Bracken, near Evander, 60 Basotho miners, arrested after rioting on Tuesday, appeared in court on charges of public violence. The case was remanded until January 22. The accused are being held in custody. The remaining workers at the mine all reported for duty yesterday.

● Blesbok Colliery, near Middelburg. The 500 Basotho mineworkers — half the mine's complement — attacked and superficially injured two Lesotho Government representatives who had been called in to speak to them.

The Basotho miners did not report for work yesterday. A mine spokesman said production was 60 per cent of normal. Eighty miners have requested repatriation.

● New Largo Colliery, near Witbank. Arrangements were being made yesterday to repatriate 220 striking Basotho. A further 200 Basotho reported for work as normal.

Informed sources in Johannesburg expect a major announcement from the Lesotho government today on the compulsory deferred pay scheme which has been the approximate cause of the bout of Basotho strikes. Early speculation that the Lesotho government may abandon the scheme gave way after an afternoon Cabinet meeting to a belief that it would be maintained.

From Maseru, the "Mail" Africa Bureau reports that homecoming miners have complained that discussions regarding the deferred pay system were held between the Lesotho Government and the Chamber of Mines alone. They claim the scheme was not explained to them.

Mines spokesmen in Johannesburg concede that the miners had little information about the scheme. A spokesman for the Chamber of Mines revealed that at an undisclosed mine in the Free State 700 Basotho complained that the deferred pay scheme did not apply to Basotho working in other industries than mining in South Africa.

As Malawian miners continue to leave South Africa at a rate of about 1 700 a week, the latest Chamber of Mines statistics reveal that the mining industry is down to 73 per cent of required labour complement. This figure does not take account of the 6 000 miners who have left this week.

The general manager of the Mines Labour Organisation, Mr A. C. Fleischer, said yesterday that the present total of African mineworkers was about 340 000, of whom about 80 000 were from Lesotho and 70 000 from Malawi.

Star 9/1/75

"Mail" Africa Bureau

MASERU. — The first batch of Basotho miners, angry at the Lesotho Government's new regulations controlling their pay, arrived in Maseru by train yesterday, creating a tense situation which is being carefully watched by the paramilitary police.

Although the situation was peaceful and quiet last night it is feared that resentful miners, who have little prospect of getting jobs in Lesotho, may provoke unrest.

Some northern areas of Lesotho are still strongholds of the Basotho Congress Party which attempted an unsuccessful revolt against the ruling National Party exactly a year ago.

The Lesotho Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr J. R. M. Moitse, said in a radio interview yesterday that Basothos had gone on strike in South Africa because they had "misunderstood" the government's intentions.

The Deferred Payment Act makes it compulsory for miners to deposit 60 per cent of their earnings in the government-controlled Bank of Lesotho. This unpopular regulation came into effect from January 1 and is the main reason for the strikes.

Thousands of dissatisfied miners, streaming back to their homes where they have little chance of getting jobs and who have already lost earnings could cause a security risk, observers believe.

The Lesotho Cabinet, which met yesterday to discuss the miners' crisis, decided to retain the unpopular legislation that provoked the strikes.

An informed source close to senior Ministers said the Cabinet decided it was better that miners invest 60 per cent of their earnings in Lesotho to earn interest — in terms of the new Deferred Wages Act — than allow the money to be used by mine owners in South Africa.

The source also claimed the Cabinet "regretted" that workers were not paid before they left their jobs.

The dispute was an issue between the Lesotho Government and its citizens, Mr A. C. Fleischer, general manager of the Mines Labour Organisation, said last night.

"We did not create the situation, it was created by Lesotho and we have been caught in the cross-fire," he said.

He did not expect the decision to retain the new legislation to affect the flow of Basotho miners to South African mines — a contingent of 300 was expected soon from Maseru.

From Botswana, the "Mail" Africa Bureau reports that 90 Motswana miners have returned by train from the troubled Vaal Reefs Mine at Orkney.

They told a reporter that Basotho miners had tried to involve them. When they refused it was clear, they said, that they faced violence.

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9/1/75

THE STAR JOHANNESBURG THURSDAY JANUARY 9 19

Blind fury wr

ORKNEY — A claim that "the situation is returning to normal" rings a little hollow when set against a visible aftermath of havoc at the Vaal Reefs mining complex, where eight miners died in four days of unrest.

The No. 2 compound suffered the worst damage in Sunday's sudden flare-up. Smashed windows, burnt-out welfare facilities, broken bottles and tree-stumps denuded of branches for weapons bear mute testimony to a night of mob violence.

The kitchens were hit first Massive doors of cooler rooms were ripped open and 900 kg of meat and 880 kg of fish disappeared into the darkened compound lines.

reaked havoc at mine

Story: ROBERT DANIEL
Pictures: JIMMY LIMBERIS

One group smashed open the community drinking centre, smashing bottles, doors and windows. Heavy steel gates were ripped from walls as the rioters looted all the liquor stocks

The Basothos, who were responsible for the carnage, are a minority group among the compound's 3 400 miners, who have many tribal affiliations. When the pent-up emotions of the Basothos boiled over, the rest fled in panic.

In the aftermath of hatred, only one fact is certain. The well appointed community recreational facilities and welfare centres were hardest hit — for what reason, no one knows.

The barber's shop was gutted. Next door, in the tailor's shop, sewing machine frames lay smashed among piles of shredded cloth which only hours before had been suits. The clothing had not been taken — only destroyed

The paraplegic centre suffered the same fate. Miners disabled in underground accidents were rehabilitated at the centre in many skilled crafts. Yesterday, what was left of their tools and raw materials lay strewn about the floor

Mr Ivor Saunder, an employee of Anglo American, could only mouth the words of many others "Why destroy the best things you have in life first?"

On Monday, spokesmen for the Basothos had merely shrugged their shoulders in mute reply when asked why they had destroyed their facilities

"We have nothing against the mine, the compound or the recreational facilities," they had said. "We were angry, so we vented our anger in the only way possible"

Yesterday, many of them sat near the hostel gates, waiting to be taken to homeward-bound trains

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General Mining will have found themselves confronted by an intriguing dilemma.

bought a total of 45 000 ordinary Union Corporation shares yesterday at an average price equivalent to 630c a share.

by the Friedrich Flick KG, Dusseldorf, to rumours that Flick is to sell its 40 percent holding in

evaluation at prices, according to a Finance Ministry spokesman

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8/1/75 STAR

The death toll at the strike-bound Vaal Reefs gold mine rose to eight after another tribal clash last night as the trouble spread to two collieries.

Two Lesotho Government representatives were assaulted last night while addressing a meeting of about 500 Basotho mineworkers at Blesbok Colliery near Middelburg.

About 220 Basothos who have protested about pay deferment are to be sent home from the New Largo Colliery, near Witbank.

Special trains

More than 2 400 mineworkers from Vaal Reefs crammed two special trains on their way home yesterday and another special train has been scheduled for today

Only about 12 500 men were at work today at Vaal Reefs — the world's largest gold mine.

Four men were killed and eight injured in the latest outbreak of faction fighting on the mine's No 1 Shaft hostel at about 9.15 last night Four others were killed on Monday.

The names of three of the eight dead at Vaal Reefs were given today as Mr Skalana, Mr Morenaokae and Mr Boardman — all Basothos.

Still in a serious condition are Mr Buyisile (Xhosa), Mr Kwenzile (Xhosa), Mr Mathalisa (Basotho), a Xhosa identified only as James and a Hlubi identified only as Bishop.

The eight injured last night are: P Moahloli, L Chapi, V Leqayi, H Phahluwa, G Mkwambi, T Tembane, T Thakaphi and M Nyenye.

Collieries

At New Largo colliery arrangements are being made to repatriate about 220 Basothos. The remaining Black work force of 1 100 (including another 200 Basothos) is unaffected. At Blesbok colliery Basothos did not go underground today and production is expected to be 60 percent of normal.

Union Corporation announced today that "a small group" of Basothos, earlier reported to number about 60, were arrested early yesterday when they tried to prevent the main body of workers at the Bracken Gold Mine from going to work.

No intervention

A spokesman for the Department of Mines has said that the South African Government does not intend to interve in the dispute which is seen as being between the workers and the Lesotho Government following Chief Leabua Jonathan's announcement that the workers would have to invest 60 percent of their incomes in Lesotho.

RDM 8/1

Financial Editor

GOLD dropped $4 to $169,50 at the second fixing in London yesterday — the first time in two months the price had dipped below $170.

The fall was a reaction to the gold auction on Monday by the United States Treasury of 2-million ounces in which bids were received for less than 1-million ounces and accepted for only 750 000 ounces at prices of $153 and above.

The highest bid was at $188.

Although the US auction has depressed gold, South Africa has the comfort of an apparent floor price of about $155.

The average gold price for 1974 was about $160 and the 1975 figure is unlikely to be less than this.

However, the super goldbugs who had been predicting a price of $235 being reached in the first half of this year, would, on present evidence, appear to be set for a disappointment.

● See Pages 5, 7, 15

9/1/75

The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — A Lesotho Government official today appealed to about 500 mineworkers who arrived back from South Africa to "remain peaceful" during their stay in the country.

The men, the latest batch to arrive from the Vaal Reefs gold mine, reacted by roaring "Khotso" (peace).

They confirmed the claims of miners who had returned earlier that Xhosa miners had engineered the disturbances at the mine. They further claimed that they had been attacked by White mine officials during the week.

The men said they knew nothing about the new pay scheme, but once it had been clarified they would be prepared to return to South Africa.

Miners interviewed on arrival said that Xhosas had encouraged them to strike against the Deferred Pay Act, which the Lesotho Government refused yesterday to withdraw.

"FLED FOR LIVES"

From Gaborone, it is reported that fleeing Batswana mineworkers claimed today that they had left Vaal Reefs to escape a faction fight with the Basothos, who wanted them to take part in the disturbances.

The men claimed that the situation became unbearable and they fled to save their lives.

The miners told grim tales of bodies being carried away in trucks and some said they had seen their room mates killed in the clashes.

About 90 have arrived back in Gaborone. According to them, some of their fellow workers have been arrested by the railway police in South Africa because they could not pay their train fares. They had fled without collecting their wages.

● A spokesman for the Railways said in Johannesburg he was unable to establish that any Batswanas had been arrested or put off the train.

(See Page 29)

STAR 9/1/75

Labour Reporter

The Chamber of Mines may consider temporarily suspending the recruiting of Basotho mineworkers.

This follows the Lesotho Government's new legislation which compulsorily defers 60 percent of mineworkers' pay.

The mining industry was strongly against forcing anybody to comply with conditions with which he disagreed, the chamber said in Johannesburg today.

(See Pages 3 and 29)

If necessary the industry would have to consider temporarily suspending the recruitment of such people, but efforts to make such a step unnecessary were being made through continued negotiation with Lesotho.

The chamber pointed out that a great deal of misunderstanding underlay the situation, as four out of five Basothos had their pay deferred voluntarily before the new law was passed.

A spokesman revealed today that at the end of December the Black underground complement on the gold mines was down to 73 percent of requirements, of the 301 430 Black workers, 68 400 were Malawians and 67 492 Basothos.

ACTION URGED

The Government was urged to act immediately today by the United Party, whose chief spokesman on labour matters, Dr G F Jacobs, called for the immediate creation of a permanent "labour secretariat for Southern African states."

A spokesman for Vaal Reefs said all men who left the mine had been paid, except for those who had left without collecting their pay.

Batswanas still at Vaal Reefs made it clear that they also intended to leave for home after being addressed today by the Botswana Government Representative, Mr T N Mngqihisa.

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STAR.
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Basothos blame Xhosas for riot

The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — Some of about 300 Basotho miners who arrived here last night alleged that the unrest among Basothos on South African mines was engineered by Xhosa miners and by agitators from Lesotho

Miners interviewed on arrival said that Xhosas had encouraged them to strike against the Deferred Pay Act, which the Lesotho Government refused yesterday to withdraw

The miners said they had given false information by mine officials on the operation of the new law

They had been told, they said, that their wages would be held for the entire period of their contracts without any portion being paid to them or to their relatives at home.

But the miners admitted they did not know what the implications of the new law were, although it has been explained by Radio Lesotho since September.

"FLED FOR LIVES"

From Gaborone, it is reported that fleeing Batswana mineworkers claimed today that they had left Vaal Reefs to escape a faction fight with the Basothos, who wanted them to take part in the disturbances

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(See Page 29)

DAILY DISPATCH
FRIDAY
JANUARY 10, 1975
PRICE 10c ☆

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Crisis grows as miners quit

JOHANNESBURG—South Africa's growing mine crisis worsened last night with an announcement by the Chamber of Mines it is considering barring Basotho mineworkers; the news that rioting mineworkers caused R60 000 worth of damage at the troubled Vaal Reefs complex; and the fact the mining industry's labour force has dropped alarmingly.

In a statement yesterday the chamber said the mining industry was strongly against forcing anybody to comply with conditions with which he disagreed

If necessary the chamber would have to consider temporarily suspending the recruitment of such people

However, efforts to make such a step unnecessary were being made through continued negotiations with Lesotho, the statement added

The chamber said there was a great deal of misunderstanding underlying the situation as four out of five Basothos had had their pay voluntarily deferred before the new law was passed

The chamber also said that mines must take further action to protect law-abiding employees Consequently, mines would in future send trouble-makers home as soon as possible

Meanwhile, police have reported an easing off of the tension at Vaal Reefs mine, near Klerksdorp, where rioting among Basotho mineworkers since Sunday claimed the lives of eight men.

Damage to buildings at the mine was estimated at R60 000 yesterday.

The total production loss caused by strikes, riots and violent fighting this week would be known within a few days, the manager of the mine, Mr E. Smit, said.

According to Mr Smit, the mine's normal black underground labour force of 23 000 had dropped to about 17 000 during the past few days.

After the riots and strikes broke out hundreds of white miners also had to be turned back after reporting for duty. Three shafts at the mine came to a standstill for several hours on Monday.

Most of the striking miners went back to work yesterday.

Mr Smit said many of the miners, mostly Basothos, who left the mine in the past few days indicated they would return after the trouble had stopped.

During the riots many buildings were burnt down and windows and furniture smashed.

About 700 Xhosas refused to go underground yesterday, but told the mine management they were not striking.

"They said they were only worried about the trouble at the mine and would report for duty after the striking of the other miners had stopped," Mr Smit said.

A representative of the Botswana Labour Department said his country's miners told him during negotiations at the mine that they wanted to go home, but would return to the mine as soon as the trouble was over.

Meanwhile, the average percentage of the black labour force needed to operate the mines throughout the country continued to drop yesterday.

Workers from Malawi, Lesotho and Botswana, who made up almost half the black mine labour force, were still streaming home, lowering the average complement—presently at about 70 per cent—still further.

Malawians are leaving at the rate of 4 000 a month and are not returning. The last Malawian is expected to leave before October.

In Maseru, the Prime Minister of Lesotho, Chief Jonathan, said the dissatisfaction of Basotho mineworkers arose from faulty information given to them by mine managements.

Explanations had been given to men returning home and as a result many had expressed their willingness to return to work almost immediately, he said.

— SAPA-DDC.

BEELD 10/1/75

Van Ons Wes-Randse Kantoor

ORKNEY

SKADE van sowat R60 000 is met die onluste die laaste paar dae by die Vaal Reefs-goudmyn deur stakers aangerig wat hoofsaaklik snags op plundertogte alles in hul nabye omgewing verwoes het

Volgens 'n woordvoerder van die myn sal dit maande duur om al die dienste en geriewe vir mynwerkers by die myn te hervat.

Gisteraand laat was die toestand by die myn baie rustig. Die grootste deel van die polisiemag wat sedert Sondagnag by die myn saamgetrek was, is onttrek. Geen moeilikheid is verlede nag verwag nie.

'n Woordvoerder van die myn sê sowat 70 persent van die beskikbare swart arbeidsmag by die myn het gister werk hervat. Skag nommer 1 was die meeste geraak ná Dinsdagnag se bakleiery waarin vier werkers dood en agt beseer is.

TYDELIK

Na Beeld verneem, bestaan daar 'n moontlikheid dat van die kleiner skagte — skagte 6 en 7 — tydelik gesluit sal word om die beskikbare arbeidsmag so te verdeel onder ander skagte dat die myn die minste skade sal ly sover dit produksie betref.

BIERSAAL

Die plunderaars het die grootste skade aangerig by die nommer 2-skag. Bykans alle venster in die omgewing is stukkend gegooi, die telsynstasie is verwoes en skade aan ander myneiendom beloop duisende rande. Groot staaldeure van die kombuis is oopgebreek en honderde kilogram vleis is uit die koelkaste gesteel. By die gemeenskaplike biersaal is ingebreek en 'n groot hoeveelheid drank word vermis.

Volgens die mynwoordvoerder is die kombuise, wat telkens eerste deurgeloop het, reeds só herstel dat kos aan die oorblywendes verskaf kan word. Die gebreekte ruite en afgerukte deure sal later herstel word. Tans moet aandag eerste gegee word aan herstelwerk van ander geboue wat noodsaaklike dienste lewer.

Uit Botswana word berig dat die eerste vlugtelinge wat in Gaborone aangekom het skrikwekkende verhale van die gevegte vertel. Van hulle sê hulle het gesien hoe lyke in vragmotors weggery word. Andere het gesien hoe hul kamermaats in die bakleierye doodgeslaan is.

Van die eerste Basoeto's wat in Lesotho aangekom het, sê die onluste is deur Kôsas georganiseer, asook deur agitators uit Lesotho.

Intussen het werkers van Malawi polisiebeskerming by die myn gevra. Hulle vrees aanvalle op hulle. Hulle is hoofsaaklik by skagte 3 en 4 saamgetrek.

STAR 10/1/75

Labour Reporter

Basotho mineworkers are still being recruited "in good numbers" in spite of the unrest on South African mines, says Mr Tony Fleischer, general manager of the Chamber of Mines labour organisation.

"But we are making sure that the new recruits are happy with the deferred pay clause," he added today.

Asked why the mines did not solve the dispute by agreeing to the workers' wishes, he said: "We can't take unilateral action."

"Basothos sign an agreement in their own country in terms of their own legislation and we must honour this under agreements between Lesotho and South Africa."

(See Page 3)

About 8 000 men had left the Vaal Reefs gold mine for home by yesterday. A further 1 000 have indicated that they wish to leave and a train is available to take them as soon as they are paid off.

About 12 000 men went underground at Vaal Reefs today and all shafts were operational as calm returned to the mine.

Batswana miners returning home from Vaal Reefs fear that further clashes could erupt at any time at the mine, reports The Star's Africa News Service. But they have expressed their willingness to return when the situation returns to normal.

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STAR 10/1/75

Air Correspondent

The Chamber of Mines, which yesterday chartered a Dakota to fly 24 Black workers from Rhodesia, will not necessarily use the controversial Lanseria airport again.

"Lanseria happened to be convenient for us, but it does not follow that we will use it in the future," said a spokesman today.

"We may use Jan Smuts next time. The last thing we want is to become involved in a controversial issue not of our making."

Some land owners fear that yesterday's airlift could be the start of a massive invasion, bringing mineworkers to the Transvaal.

It would mean that the airport to the West of Johannesburg would become the second biggest on the Reef only to Jan Smuts — something residents have bitterly opposed since Lanseria was opened in 1972.

The Lanseria manager, Mr Abe Sher, who helped pioneer the project, said today he was "sick to death" of continued controversy.

The airport was legally licensed and run according to regulations of the Department of Civil Aviation, and as such had every right to operate.

Mr Sher said the charter aircraft which landed yesterday would be the first of several.

"This country needs African labour and to start another controversy because this airport is being used to bring them in is a disservice to the country."

The Chamber of Mines engaged the Rhodesians because labour is urgently needed.

A spokesman could not say how many more would be recruited.

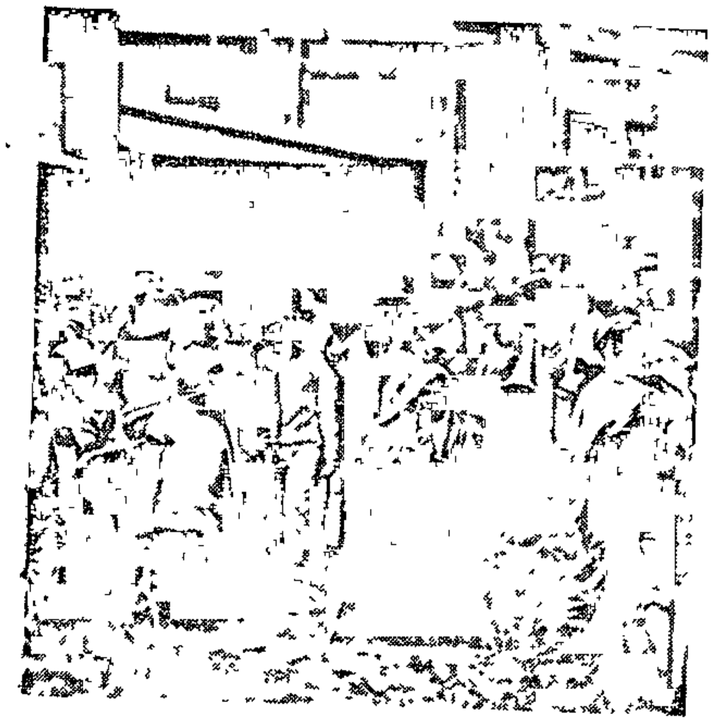
MINE RIOTS

Pay or politics?

The New Year has ushered in renewed turmoil on the gold mines, this time involving Basotho workers angered by a Lesotho government compulsory deferred pay requirement on new contracts.

So far mines affected have included Saaiplaas, Western Deep Levels and Vaal Reefs — where disturbances this week saw eight dead and, at one stage, 12 000 miners on strike. By Wednesday, 4 500 Basothos jammed the Orkney and

FM. 10/1/75



Let's get the hell out of here

Vierfontein railway stations for repatriation, fearing more violence The troubles spread the same day to the Blesbok and New Largo collieries

What is in question is the degree to which anger over compulsory deferred pay is responsible, and whether other factors are not also playing a role On-the-spot reports indicate that following the Sunday night strike by Basothos over the pay issue, inter-tribe clashes occurred between strikers and Xhosas, allegedly because the latter resented the strikers' disruptive effect on the work force as a whole

Of the 21 500 Blacks working underground at Vaal Reefs, Basothos make up 28% of the total, 22% are Xhosa, 15% Mozambiquans, and 11% from Botswana

From Maseru, Chief Jonathan deplored the events at Vaal Reefs He was "dissatisfied" with the miners' conduct Part of the background to this is that Basotho mineworkers are traditionally regarded as more industrious and tend to land better-paid jobs on the mines Strike action will, of course, damage this reputation and reflect on Lesotho's labour image

But the fact is Basotho mine workers were not consulted on the new provision — gazetted in Lesotho in November — and there is speculation in Maseru that opponents of Jonathan's government on the SA mines are using this as a political wedge against him

One returning miner from Vaal Reefs told the *FM* "I came here to work for my family, not for the Lesotho government" Departing miners were unanimous in opposing Lesotho's action on deferred pay, many expressing lack of confidence in the country's leaders

The political element in the unrest can only be assessed by looking at the deferred pay clause itself in the past Basotho miners could choose to defer a little or as much of their pay as they chose Now, 60% of basic earnings on new contracts must be deferred for payment at the miners' point of recruitment in Lesotho, while the Lesotho National Bank — the old Post Office savings bank — will pay the ruling rate of interest (currently 5%)

Previously, the SA Chamber of Mines used interest on Basotho's voluntarily deferred pay to make medical, educational and charitible contributions to the areas from where the miners came

As an Information Ministry official in Maseru puts it, the change means that Basotho miners "will now invest in their own country" Since 1966, the Lesotho government has been considering making deferred pay compulsory for its miners, as it is for Malawians and Mozambiquans Economically, it does make sense

At any one time there are about 85 000 Basotho miners in SA On the gold mines alone in October 1974 there were 69 000. Figures for pay voluntarily deferred or remitted to Lesotho are hard to ascertain, but one estimate for 1973 puts it at R7,8m for gold and coal miners

The new provision, according to a senior official of the Lesotho National Bank, could mean deferred pay from Basotho miners on new contracts this year will amount to R24m The miners will get this back on their return, but they will have to obtain a chit from the appropriate recruiting agency to get the interest

The official told the *FM* "Because contracts are for different periods of time, it will only be within two years that *all* miners must defer 60% of their pay By then the Lesotho deferred pay fund could stand at R40m-R50m"

It amounts to an enforced savings scheme serving Lesotho's interests "It is not economic for a developing country to have its migrant workers' money outside the country," the official commented He added "We did not always necessarily benefit from the way in which the Chamber of Mines used the deferred pay interest"

It does mean the Basotho miners will have substantially less say over the deployment of their earnings But of course this is only part of the story As the strikes mount and more and more miners pack their bags for home, public concern grows

SA's mines are becoming increasingly violent, irrespective of the day-to-day causes of flare-ups The Chamber of Mines must give top priority to an investigation of what the gold miners, whatever their origin, feel about conditions in the compounds

DIE BEELD

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Misverstand agter myn-onrus

DIE mynbestuur van die Vaal Reefs-myn in Wes-Transvaal, waar agt mynwerkers die afgelope dae in onluste gesterf het, het elke poging aangewend om die nuwe stelsel van uitgestelde betaling aan mynwerkers van Lesotho aan hulle te verduidelik Ook is die toepassing van die wetgewing van Lesotho waarin die stelsel beliggaam word, aan die mynwerkers uiteengesit

Só het 'n woordvoerder van die Anglo American-maatskappy gister op navraag aan Beeld gesê Die woordvoerder is genader na aanleiding van die bewering van terugkerende mynwerkers wat in Maseru gesê het die myn het vals inligting oor die wetgewing aan hulle verstrek

Die mynwerkers het beweer die mynbestuur het hulle laat verstaan dat hul volle loon eers in Lesotho aan hulle uitbetaal sou word ná voltooiing van hul kontrakte. In werklikheid sou hulle veertig persent van hul lone reeds in Suid-Afrika ontvang

Daarbenewens het van die mynwerkers wat in Maseru aangekom het, beweer dat Kôsas hulle aangehits het om teen die wetgewing van hul land oor hul lone te betoog Hierdie bewering is ook deur die woordvoerder ontken

Wat wel gebeur het, is dat die Kôsas ondergronds by die myn gewerk het, terwyl die oproerige mynwerkers van Lesotho by hul woonplekke was Daar was toe „'n mate van plundery" en hierop het stamgevegte uitgebreek, het die woordvoerder gesê

Intussen word uit Gaborone berig dat 'n groep van die sowat agthonderd werkers uit Botswana wat in die onluste van die myn weggevlug het, gesê het hulle het gevlug omdat hulle bang was dat 'n geveg tussen die mynwerkers van Lesotho sou ontstaan Mynwerkers van Lesotho, sê hulle, het hulle probeer oorreed om aan die oproerigheid deel te neem

Die Kamer van Mynwese het gister in 'n verklaring gesê hy sal dit moontlik oorweeg om die werwing van mynwerkers in Lesotho op te skort, hoewel hy sal voortgaan om met die regering van Lesotho te onderhandel om so iets te probeer verhinder

Volgens die verklaring was daar „klaarblyklik 'n groot misverstand oor die nuwe wetgewing van Lesotho oor die mynwerkers se lone" aangesien sowat tagtig persent van die werkers hulle in die verlede in elk geval op 'n vrywillige grondslag aan die stelsel van uitgestelde betaling onderwerp het

Die mynbounywerheid is volgens die verklaring sterk daarteen gekant dat enige werker hom moet onderwerp aan bepalinge waarmee hy nie saamstem nie. Die Kamer van Mynwese doen alles in sy vermoë om die geskil tussen die mynwerkers van Lesotho en hul regering op te los.

In 'n verdere verklaring sê die Kamer van Mynwese dat die myne in die toekoms moeilikheidmakers so gou moontlik huis toe sal stuur. Tot nog toe het die myn net mynwerkers wat dit versoek het, huis toe gestuur.

Sapa berig dat 'n woordvoerder van die Kamer van Mynwese gesê het daar word hiermee beoog om wetsgehoorsame werknemers te beskerm Die optrede van moeilikheidmakers kan nie langer geduld word nie

Die baie mynwerkers uit Lesotho wat hul teenkanting teen die wetgewing van hul regering op 'n vreedsame wyse laat blyk het en wat normaal werk, sal op elke moontlike wyse deur die myn gehelp word

Volgens die verklaring sal hierdie besware onder die aandag van die regering van Lesotho gebring word in die hoop dat die vraagstuk gou opgelos sal word.

Intussen het die hoofwoordvoerder van die Verenigde Party oor arbeidsake, dr. Gideon Jacobs, LV, in 'n verklaring voorgestel dat 'n vaste arbeidssekretariaat vir lande in Suider-Afrika onmiddellik gestig moet word, berig Sapa.

Volgens die voorstel moet die belangrikste werkgewersorganisasies, die mynwerkers self en die betrokke regerings op die sekretariaat verteenwoordig word.

Die jongste vlaag arbeidsbotsings wat tot die verlies van menselewens aan die Wes-Rand gelei het, het hom genoop om die voorstel te doen, het dr. Jacobs gesê „Hierdie sekretariaat moet as 'n vaste raadgewende liggaam dien oor alle sake wat buitelandse werkers raak."

DIE BEELD 10/1/75

I, sê werkers

Van Ons Goudveldse Kantoor

WELKOM.

DIE polisie en die Kamer van Mynwese is bewus van gerugte dat oproer onder swart werkers by goudmyne kan uitbreek en is gereed vir elke gebeurlikheid hoewel hulle nog nie oor „besliste feite" beskik nie.

Na bewering is lede van die opposisie in Lesotho, die Basutoland Congress Party, besig met propoganda onder die mynwerkers om die regering van premier Jonathan in diskrediet te bring.

Die polisie sê dat verdere onrus kan volg as die regering van Lesotho nie aanpassings in die wetgewing maak wat op 1 Januarie vanjaar in werking getree het e i waarvolgens 60 persent van 'n mynwerker se loon in 'n bank in Lesotho inbetaal moet word nie

Die moontlikheid dat die moeilikheid wyer afmetinge kan aanneem, volg op die afgelope week se stakings en oproer wat op Nuwejaarsdag by die Saaiplaas-goudmyn buite Virginia met 'n staking van sowat 3 000 werkers uit Lesotho begin en daarna na Wes- en Oos-Transvaal uitgebrei het

'n Woordvoerder van die Kamer van Mynwese het aan Beeld gesê die Kamer is bewus dat gerugte oor groter oproer in omloop is, maar weet nie waar die oorsprong daarvan is nie

'n Amptenaar sê die toestand is op die oomblik soos 'n wipplank Premier Leabua Jonathan se jongste versekering dat die werkers hul geld sal kry wanneer hulle na hul tuisland terugkeer, laat dit lyk of die griewe van die werkers en hul aantyging dat hulle hul geld nie weer sal sien nie, ongegrond is en op 'n wanvoorstelling berus

Die meeste Basoeto's wat in die Vaal Reefs-goudmyn werk waar onluste die laaste paar dae gewoed het, is ondersteuners van die Basutoland Congress Party in Lesotho. Hulle sê hulle word met mag en geweld deur premier Jonathan en sy regering geregeer Jonathan se ondersteuners by die myn is in die minderheid en een van sy ondersteuners was onder dié wat dood is

MISVERSTAND

Die BCP se ondersteuners sê nou dat premier Jonathan hul geld wil gebruik om hulle verder te onderdruk. Hulle beweer hy wil met hul geld wat na Lesotho teruggestuur word, werk, en dat hy wapens daarmee wil koop om hulle verder te onderdruk.

'n Woordvoerder van Anglo-American sê die groep hoop dat alles nou weer rustig by die deur onluste geteisterde myne sal verloop nadat die werkers in Wes- en Oos-Transvaal na hul werk teruggekeer het

Hy meen dat alle misverstand uit die weg geruim kan word as die swart werkers verstaan wat met hul geld gebeur wat na hul tuisland teruggestuur word.

Groot lof vir polisie

VIERFONTEIN.

VOLLE PUNTE vir die polisie. Dié mense het hulle onverbeterlik van hul taak gekwyt," het 'n senior amptenaar by die Suidvaalskag van die Vaal Reefs-goudmyn buite Vierfontein gesê.

Beeld het saam met twee amptenare van die myn deur die hostel gery waar vier swartes sedert Sondag in onluste dood is. Afgesien van 'n aantal ruite en bome wat gebreek is, was daar nie veel tekens van die laaste paar dae se bloedige gevegte in die hostel nie.

Mynwerkers het in groepies voor hul netjiese kamers rondgesit en hulle besig gehou met hul dagtaak. Net waar die motor deur die hostel gery het, is die insittendes vriendelik gegroet en hier en daar 'n paar vriendelike woorde gewissel. Die inwoners haal weer vrylik asem ná die verskikking van die laaste paar dae.

Nagenoeg 2 400 swartes, van wie 1 800 Basoeto's het reeds die hostel verlaat en is huis toe. Die presiese syfer is egter moeilik bepaalbaar aangesien van die vreesbevange swartes wat niks met die onrus te doene gehad het nie, in die veld om die hostel weggekruip het. Hulle begin nou stadigaan terugkeer.

„Dit is een van die tragedies van die hele aangeleentheid. Bantoes wat al lank by die myn werk, het in doodse vrees vir hul lewens uit die hostel gevlug.

Op 'n mooi groen grasperk tussen die gebou is die plek waar 'n Basoeto wreed deur sy volksgenote vermoor is aan Beeld uitgewys. Die man was skynbaar 'n ondersteuner van premier Jonathan en sy nuwe arbeidswetgewing.

Polisiemanne het nog by die hostel rondgesit nadat daar aan bevreesde minderheidsgroepe in die hostel belowe is dat die polisie hulle sal beskerm teen verdere geweldpleging.

Vir die swartes in die kampong is die polisie se teenwoordigheid gerusstellend. Die verhouding tussen die swart mynwerkers en die polisiemanne by die hostel is uitstekend, het 'n amptenaar van die myn gesê.

'N DAKOTA van Wenela het gister met die eerste groep swart Rhodesiese mynwerkers op die Lanseria-lughawe buite Johannesburg geland Hier is 'n paar van die groep van 24 by die vliegtuig afgeneem.

Myne

Vervolg van bl. 1

huis toe bring Lesotho kan klaarkom sonder Jonathan se wette, het mnr. Mofedi gesê

Lesotho se minister van arbeid, mnr. Moitse, het gesê sy regering sal die mynwerkers in verskeie kort- en langtermynprojekte in diens neem, maar mnr Mofedi het die projekte as oppervlakkig bestempel Die werkers het Lesotho verlaat juis omdat hulle nie daar werk kon kry nie, het hy gesê

Mnr Moitse het ook gesê dat ander Afrika-lande, soos Malawi, bewus is van die toestande van geweld by die myne en dat dit die rede is waarom hulle die posisie van hul burgers by Suid-Afrikaanse myne in heroorweging geneem het

Hy het sterk veroordelend gepraat oor die stelsel van trekarbeid in Suid-Afrika Die meeste jong mans word vir lang tydperke van hul gesin geskei en wanneer hulle terugkom, het hulle geslagsiektes en myntering, het hy gesê

Op 'n vraag oor die gevaar dat die terugkerende mynwerkers vir geweld in Lesotho verantwoordelik kan wees, het mnr Moitse gesê Suid-Afrikaanse myne is die teelaarde van geweld

Op Orkney het Vaal Reefs se hoofbestuurder, mnr E P Smit, gister gesê, dit was nog nie moontlik om die verlies aan produksie by die myn te bepaal nie

Nagenoeg R50 000 se skade is die laaste paar dae gedurende die onluste by die goudmyn aan die hostels aangerig, het mnr Smit op 'n perskonferensie gesê

Baie van die swart arbeiders by die myn is weg sonder om te wag op hul geld „Hulle het geloop en wou ons nie kans gee om hulle te betaal nie," het mnr. Smit gesê Hy het geantwoord op 'n verklaring deur die regering van Lesotho dat die werkers nie betaal is nie

Die myn self reël ook nooit vir die werkers vervoer in Lesotho nie Daar was wel busse wat die swartes van die myn na die spoorwegstasies op Orkney en Vierfontein gebring het.

Nagenoeg 16 000 van die myn se 25 000 ondergrondse arbeiders het gister gewerk 'n Aantal het nog nie gaan werk nie omdat hulle eers wil seker maak dat die toestand by die myn weer normaal is

Nagenoeg 6 500 is reeds per trein weg Die meeste was Basoeto's Nagenoeg 1 000 Tswanas het ook die myn verlaat, hoewel 'n woordvoerder van die regering van Botswana hulle gisteroggend toegespreek het

Baie van die swart werkers het te kenne gegee dat hulle binnekort weer sal terugkeer na die myn sodra die onluste opgeklaar het

Die polisie het gister ook groot lof gekry vir hul optrede gedurende die onluste.

● Lees berigte op bl. 5.

Rusie dreig weer oor Lanseria

Beeld (69) 10/1/75

DIE Kamer van Mynwese het gister begin om swart mynwerkers wat in buurstate gewerf is, op die Lanseria-lughawe buite Johannesburg te laat land

'n Dakota van Wenela het gistermiddag uit Salisbury op die lughawe aangekom met 24 swart Rhodesiërs aan boord

Voorheen het mynwerkers uit buurstate, veral Malawi, slegs van die lughawe Jan Smuts gebruik gemaak Die verwagting is dat die Kamer van Mynwese in die toekoms meer die Lanseria-lughawe sal gebruik Die klaarblyklike rede hiervoor is dat dr. Banda van Malawi glo ontevrede was met die behandeling wat Malawiese mynwerkers op Jan Smuts gekry het Hulle is nie toegelaat om die normale kanale vir passasiers uit die buiteland te gebruik nie, maar is deur die goederelloodse geneem.

Dit mag wees dat die gebruik van die Lanseria-lughawe 'n skuif is om dr Banda te oorreed om sy verbod op nog kontrakarbeiders uit Malawi op te hef By Lanseria het die Rhodesiers gister van die gewone geriewe vir passasiers uit die buiteland gebruik gemaak

Die Dakota met die Rhodesiers is die eerste passasiers-vliegtuig wat op die Lanseria-lughawe neergestryk het Dit mag die hele polemiek om die lughawe, sy posisie en die grootte van die vliegtuie wat daar mag land, weer eens laat opvlam.

'n Johannesburgse stadsraadslid, mnr. Eddie Magid, het al lank 'n vete met die Adjunk-minister van Vervoer, mnr J W Rall, en die Departement van Burgerlugvaart oor die lughawe aan die gang. Mnr. Magid het 'n brief van mnr. Rall aan Beeld getoon waarin die versekering gegee word dat die lughawe net vir ligte vliegtuie bedoel is en dat dit beslis nie „in 'n tweede Jan Smuts" sal ontwikkel nie.

UITBREIDING

Mnr Magid is baie bekommerd oor die lughawe, wat naby sy wyk lê, omdat daar geen geraaskontoertoetse gedoen is om te bepaal watter gevaar dit vir die beboude gebiede in die omgewing inhou nie Wat hom ook ontstel is die snelle uitbreiding by die lughawe, wat volgens hom net een ding beteken. dit word as 'n groot lughawe beplan

Daar is byvoorbeeld al die geriewe vir 'n internasionale lughawe, en verdere ontwikkeling soos 'n bank, groter loodse en 'n hotel in die omgewing word nou beplan.

Nadat 'n Boeing 727 van die SAL 'n toetslanding op die lughawe gedoen het, het mnr Magid in 'n stadsraadsvergadering geëis dat min. Rall hom weer die versekering gee dat groot vliegtuie nie daar sal kom neerstryk nie. Vensters en breekgoed in huise in sy wyk het gerittel en rondgedans toe die Boeing daar kom neerstryk het, het mnr. Magid gesê.

ONVOLDOENDE

Mnr. Magid beweer ook dat die brandweertoerusting op die lughawe onvoldoende is Hierop was die lughawebestuur se antwoord dat hulle naby Krugersdorp en Roodepoort lê, en dié munisipaliteite se brandweerdepartemente baie gou telefonies of per radio kan ontbied as daar 'n brand ontstaan.

„As 'n lughawe basies vir ligte vliegtuie bedoel is, beteken dit nie dat daar nie so dan en wan 'n groot vliegtuig mag land nie," het die Direkteur van Burgerlugvaart, mnr L. C. du Toit, aan Beeld gesê

Hy het gesê daar word geensins van die belofte afgewyk dat dit nie 'n tweede Jan Smuts sal word nie. „As 'n mens 'n lughawe in die Kalahari bou, gaan jy mos nie geraaskontoertoetse doen nie. Hierdie lughawe is 8 myl buite Johannesburg, baie verder as wat Jan Smuts uit 'n beboude gebied is. En ons kry nooit klagtes oor Jan Smuts nie," het mnr. Du Toit verontwaardig gesê

RDM 11/1/75 (213)

RDM 11/1

BOB HITCHCOCK

THE "other" aspect of unrest among Black miners emerged yesterday — the possible existence of *agents provocateurs*.

Top Chamber of Mines officials, I learn, have tape recorded evidence of at least two men who urged a crowd of Basothos at a recent meeting of mineworkers to revolt against the newly-introduced Lesotho Government compulsory deferred pay scheme, and not to listen to Lesotho Government explanations of it.

Some of these officials suspect that agitators are whipping up trouble among other national groups of miners as well, including the Malawians.

I put this to Tony Fleischer, general manager of the Chamber's Mine Labour Organisation. He confirmed the possibility of *agents provocateurs* existing in the ranks of Basotho miners.

"But" he points out, "the question I can't answer at the moment is whether there is a political mastermind behind the agitation."

And he adds. "The South African mines, or some of them, have become the battleground of Lesotho politics."

True as this may be, there are obviously far "harder" causes of the present unrest which in the past five months has resulted in 16 strikes or disturbances, 37 000 striking Black miners, 22 deaths and 160 men wounded and something like 4 500 repatriations.

Only yesterday, more facts emerged about Basotho miners' grievances against the contentious pay deferment legislation which took effect from January 1 this year.

Under this new legislation the Lesotho Government compulsorily defers 60 per cent of Basotho miners' pay.

Basically, it is apparent

Basically, it is apparent from reports compiled by officials of the various trouble-spot mines, the miners are angry because they feel Chief Jonathan's Government is attempting to deprive them of their human rights.

Up to now a high proportion of Basotho miners have happily contributed to voluntary pay deferment schemes run by some of the mining houses.

These they regard as savings schemes. It's the compulsion of the new Lesotho legislation that is upsetting them now, they claim.

The miners contend they would have no objection to the interest on their deferred 60 per cent of earnings going into the Lesotho Treasury, provided the total actual deferred pay was made available to them.

They maintain, and this I understand has cropped up in several reports from the mines, that the new regulations of their Government have lost sight of the various factors affecting individual Basotho miners — and their families at home in Lesotho.

These factors, the miners say, include feeding, sickness, school fees, books and clothing.

Miners question whether their Government has considered those among them whose families live in urban areas of Lesotho, where the cost of living is much higher than in rural areas.

And they say that if, under duress, they have to accept the terms, they will fight for 80 per cent of their basic earnings, allowing only 20 per cent to be deferred.

There are 340 000 Black miners working in South Africa. The annual payout in wages totals about R200-million. A Black miner on an average wage earns about R556 a year, or R2,50 a shift.

In 1967 65 000 Basothos worked on South African mines and they took back to Lesotho a total of some R9-million a year

Today, with 85 000 Basotho miners working here before the unrest began, their total earnings are about R40-million.

Of course, the blind fury that has wreaked havoc in various South African mines recently has not been confined to the Basothos.

Malawians, who have been

Malawians, who have been

Malawians, who have been a party to a compulsory pay deferment scheme of 60 per cent for the past 10 years, have been angered recently by quite a different issue.

Immediately after a Wenela Air Services DC-4, carrying 84 miners from Malawi crashed near Francistown in Botswana last April killing 77, President Banda ordered a halt to recruitment for South African mines.

This resulted in Malawians working out their contracts on the mines being starved of information about their country and their families, all of which led to a general feeling of insecurity

This feeling, I am told, emerges in recent statements made by Malawian miners to senior officials on their mines.

Aggravating this situation has been a spread of rumours among them that if they did not return home before the end of last year they would never be able to do so.

One rumour had it that not only would they not be able to return home, but they would lose their Malawian citizenship as well.

Chamber of Mines labour chief Tony Fleischer's comment on this yesterday: "Not all of the Malawian workers at present under contract to South African mines want to leave at this stage but in all probability the majority of them have been influenced by the rumours."

What of the Mozambicans? They too have been implicated in some of the recent unrest on South African mines

There is a strong feeling among many labour experts that whatever tangible grievances they may have, their country's sudden independence has had much to do with their present attitude as Black miners working in South Africa.

Undoubtedly all these factors have contributed to the climate of Black unrest that has stricken the mining industry in this country for the past 18 months or so.

But there is more to it.

This is evidenced by a Chamber of Mines scheme to spend R150-million in the next ten years on research into the cancerous growth of Black friction.

Two aspects to be studied are ways and means of making conditions underground less onerous — and how a better system of communications can be set up between Black miners and management.

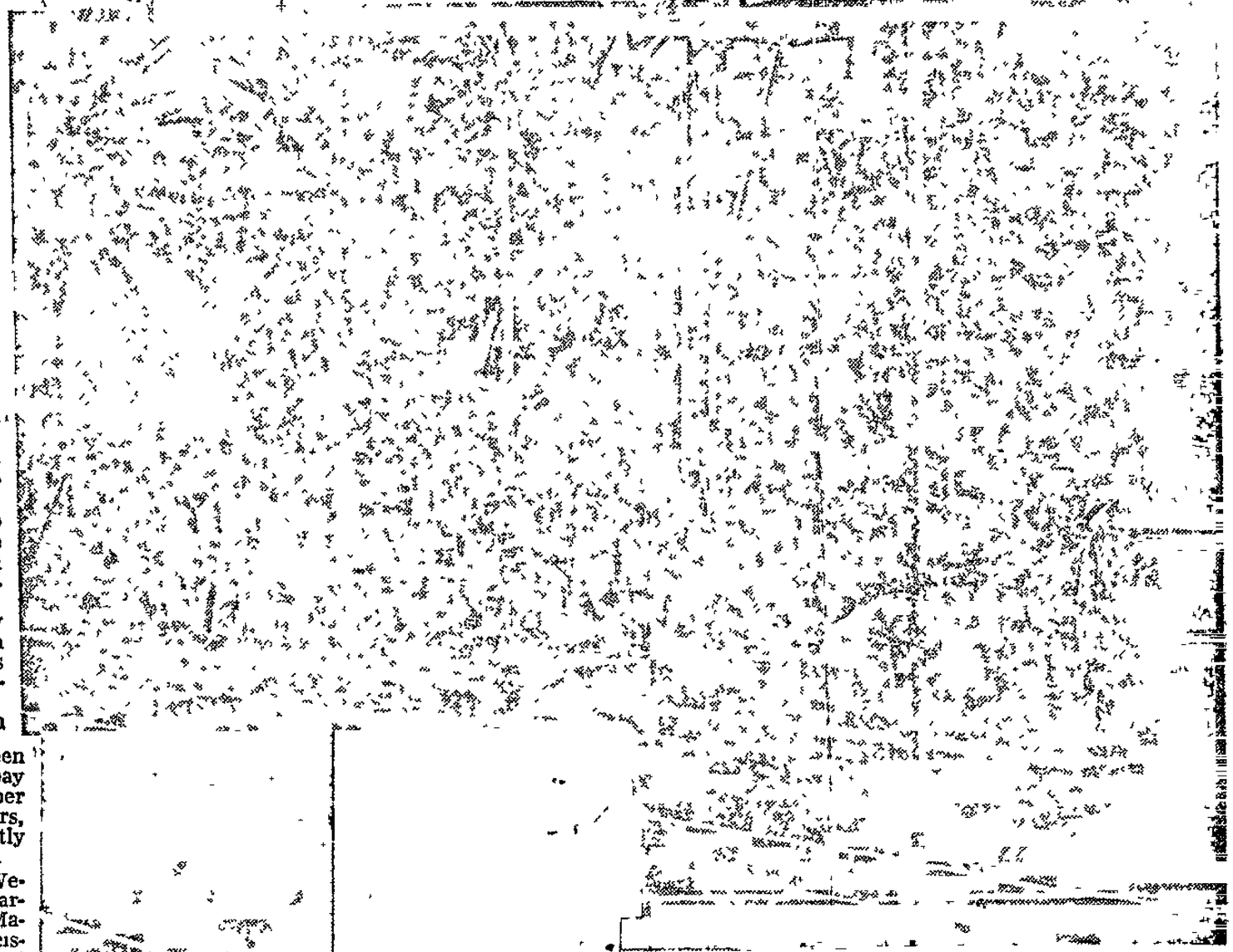
Also to be considered how an inquiry can be ried out into recent riots

All this prompts questions. Among them Why wasn't research started before the escalation friction?

Have the Chamber of es ten years grace in to conduct its research?

Will the fact that W miners, on average, cont to earn roughly seven more than Black miners considered a vital ting factor to Black dis tent?

If so, when will it be died?



arate Action 7.30

Malawi miners—is time running out?

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RDM 11/1/75

DENIS BECKETT

A PERPLEXED mine manager summed up the "Malawi problem" with a despairing shrug of his shoulders. "We always thought the Malawis were the best boys of all," he said, "but look what they're doing to us now!"

Some of his colleagues differ with his terminology, but few dispute the sentiment. The mining world's stereotype of its large Malawian labour force has traditionally been a glowing one docile, amiable, hard-working, trouble-free.

Suffered

No longer. In the past two months five mines, from the East Rand through Johannesburg to the Far West and right up to Rustenburg, have suffered spectacularly sudden strikes, involving around 12 000 people all told — nearly 15 per cent of the total Malawian labour force in South Africa. And several more mines have had smaller bouts of trouble — usually in the form of small knots of men adamantly but inexplicably demanding to be sent home without completing their contracts.

The pattern of the Malawian strikes has been unique in many ways. For one, the proximate cause of most walkouts was a faction fight, usually on a small scale — the kind of heated moments that have been normal on the mines since the migrant labour and compound systems were established.

'Scared'

Nobody turned a hair, previously. Suddenly, however, the Malawians got "scared" — at one mine 4 000 Malawians gave their fear of 400 Pondos as the reason for walking out.

The strikes were also marked by a general absence of demands on management, and a thoroughly unusual lack of hostility towards scabs And principally by a thunderous silence from the strikers' side as to what was bothering them.

Objectives were clear enough — to go straight home. But all efforts to find out why met with a barren silence.

Working on logical likelihoods as well as the bits of rumour which filter through, mine managers have, however, made a number of educated guesses as to what's working on Malawian minds.

It all began, by all accounts, when President Banda cut off the flow of incoming contract labourers in April, using the deaths of a planeload of returning workers as a transparent pretext.

Disturbed

The existing workers were not only disturbed by the disruption of a long-standing stable system, but found also that their only reliable source of information about what was happening to their wives, crops and homes in general had disappeared.

These factors themselves bred concern, and in addition constituted a very fertile ground for wild rumour to circulate And circulate the rumours did: South Africa was running short of air fuel, and wasn't going to let miners home at all; men who were still at work by Christmas, or New Year, or whatever, would not be allowed home There were various local embellishments, but the basis was consistent — we aren't going to be allowed home.

Absorb

There is also, of course, extremely practical poin[illegible] the Malawian econom[illegible] have to do some rem[illegible] things if it is to ab[illegible] the workers at pr[illegible] South Africa, and it surely cannot be far from the strikers' minds that the later they return the later they get into what is likely to be an already overstretched jobs queue.

Problems

The Malawians have both real and imagined problems, but the effect these problems are having on South Africa's mines is very real indeed. Most gold mines are now operating at about 80 per cent of optimum efficiency, almost solely due to the disruption of labour supply. Some, notably ERPM, are working at below 50 per cent of output.

The Malawian labour contract is usually for either 18 or 24 months. If all goes well, time will expire for the remaining 70 000-odd workers in South Africa at a steady pace until April next year.

If the miners get nervous again the mines may have a very much shorter period of grace to attract Black South Africans to the industry.

Beeld 10/1 (69) 10/1/75

69.

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DREIGEMENTE het gister oor en weer tussen Lesotho en Suid-Afrika gevlieg terwyl honderde mynwerkers van die Vaal Reefs-goudmyn aangekom het in Lesotho, waar hongersnood moontlik op hulle wag.

By die myn self by Vierfontein, naby Orkney, was alles by al die skagte gister egter weer rustig nadat sowat 6 500 mynwerkers daar padgegee het. Sowat 16 000 van die 25 000 mynwerkers het gister weer begin werk nadat byna R50 000 se skade by die hostels alleen in die laaste paar dae se onluste aangerig was.

RDM 11/1/75

to Lesotho

11/1 (69)

Staff Reporter

THE Vaal Reefs Mine plans to send a delegation to negotiate with the Lesotho Government following the trouble at the mine.

The proposed deputation was announced by a Chamber of Mines spokesman yesterday. He said the group would be organised by the management at the Vaal Reefs Mine, and that a member of the chamber would accompany it to Maseru.

Police have withdrawn from the Vaal Reefs complex, but the mine security officials will watch the position closely during the weekend.

There have been several riots since thousands of miners went on strike last Sunday. The mine's underground labour force of 23 000 has been decreased to about 16 000.

If a solution is not found to the row between the Lesotho Government and the migrant miners, Lesotho's economy will take a severe hammering.

The amount of money miners send home in deferred pay while they remain in South Africa on contract has risen spectacularly in the past 10 years to the stage where it is a vital factor in keeping Lesotho's finances out of the red.

The number of miners on contract in South Africa rose from 65 000 in 1967 to 85 000 last year. Their earnings in the same period rose from R9-million to R40-million. Deferred pay last year amounted to R11 500 000.

It is this last figure, likely to increase this year, that is the centre of the dispute between the miners and the Lesotho Government. Legislation introduced on January 1 makes it compulsory for miners to submit 60 per cent of their pay to the Lesotho Bank They went on strike rather than comply.

Chief Leabua Jonathan, Prime Minister, has broadcast to his people four times on the national radio in the past 48 hours, evidently in a desperate bid to justify the new law and to convince miners that their suspicion of it is unfounded

The head of the Mine Workers Union, Mr Arrie Paulus, yesterday blamed "liberals and English newspapers" for the strikes and riots which have hit the mines during the past year.

Referring to the suggestion by Dr Alex Boraine, Progressive MP for Pinelands, that responsible and rightful Black unions might have helped to avoid bloodshed, Mr Paulus said: "I am against their getting unions."

Die Kamer van Mynwese het gisteraand in 'n verklaring gesê voortaan gaan hy alle onrusstokers so gou moontlik huis toe stuur. Tot dusver het die myne net mynwerkers huis toe gestuur wat dit versoek het.

Die Kamer oorweeg dit ook om werwing in Lesotho stop te sit.

Onderwyl Basoeto-mynwerkers wat die Republiek verlaat het, gister in Maseru aangekom het, het Lesotho se minister van arbeid, handel en nywerheid egter gesê Suid-Afrika moet sy wette oor trekarbeid verander.

Die minister, mnr. Joel Moitse, het aan Beeld gesê die regering van Lesotho gaan vervoerkoste van Vaal Reefs eis omdat geen voorsiening gemaak is dat die mynwerkers van die stasie in Maseru na hul huise vervoer word nie. Busse van die Lesotho National Bus Corporation het die werkers van die stasie gister na hul huise vervoer.

Die regering van Lesotho het gister ook 'n verklaring uitgereik waarin gesê is dat die mynwerkers na verdraaide raad geluister het en dat hulle as gevolg daarvan huis toe gekom het.

SA geld

Die leier van die United Democratic Party in Lesotho, mnr. Charles Mofedi, het gesê die mynwerkers wat terugkeer, gaan 'n toekoms van hongersnood en werkloosheid tegemoet Hy het die nuwe arbeids- en loonwetgewing van die eerste minister, kaptein Leabua Jonathan, bestempel as die aanleidende faktor vir die onluste by Vaal Reefs.

Die opposisieleier het gesê Lesotho se ekonomie het sy lewensvatbaarheid alleenlik te danke aan die geld wat mynwerkers in Suid-Afrika

● Vervolg op bl. 4 ●

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Sun. TRIB. 12/1/75.

TODAY... Nagging fire on t

VAAL REEFS is the largest gold mine in the world. It is also the scene of the most recent of the ever-recurring riots leading to death, injury and destruction.

At least in this instance the exact cause of the unrest among the thousands of Black workers can be pinpointed. Prime Minister Jonathan of Lesotho decided that 60 percent of the mineworkers' pay must be sent to Lesotho.

No serious attempt had been made to communicate the reasons for this decision. Understandably the workers were suspicious and resented this unilateral decision regarding their hard-won earnings.

The result of the resentment, misunderstanding and suspicion was at least eight lives lost, an unknown number injured and thousands of rands lost in damage to property and loss in production.

Several weeks ago it was the turn of the Malawians who demanded to be sent home — a demand arising from the Malawian Government's decision to halt all recruiting in that country. Once again death, injury, damage to property and loss in production.

Before that there was the inter-tribal conflict between the Xhosa and the Basotho.

Differentials

And before that misunderstanding over wage differentials between Black workers.

Hardly a week passed without some disturbance on one mine or another.

To understand the magnitude of the problem and the acute vulnerability of the mining industry imagine more than 30 000 workers living cheek by jowl in cramped bachelor quarters.

THE LID of Pandora's box has been lifte

Dr Alex Boraine, Progressive Party MP

labour consultant. He suggests the best

demands popping out is to give the Bl

The alternative in his view? Massive I

future for the gold-minir

The men come not merely from different tribal backgrounds but from different countries. They speak many different languages and there is often suspicion and distrust. Many of them are in their teens, have left home for the first time

Primitive

Taken from their rural area and in most cases a primitive environment they are bewildered, disorientated in the strange new world of heavy industry. Understandably they listen to the wildest rumour and rally around the most vocal

The explosive character of our mine hostels offers a potential for violence which is frightening to contemplate

Ironically, one of the major reasons for the restlessness is the far-reaching improvements which have been made in the past two or three years.

While wages are still below what they ought to be, it is a fact that wages have quardrupled over the past three years It is common knowledge that further substantial increases are planned for the middle of this year.

Education

Contracts are shorter and more flexible, job opportunities have increased significantly, skilled training has been intensified; accommodation is being radically improved; leave facilities and education assistance is becoming a standard offer on most mines — and countless communication committees have been set up.

Difficult

The lid of Pandora's box has been lifted and while it is neither desirable nor possible to reverse this it i. becoming excruciatingly difficult to live with.

Expectations and new demands will continue to pop out of the box which has for so long been tightly closed.

The crucial point is that South Africa's gold mines are deep and dangerous and consequently heavily labour intensive.

For a long time the bulk

ıg industry

of the workers will continue to be recruited outside South Africa. Therefore, the problem of large numbers of unskilled and semi-skilled workers living in close proximity to each other will not disappear.

While renewed efforts must be made to humanise recruitment patterns and accommodation, it is clear that it is impossible to bring to an immediate end these potential sources of conflict despite the emergence of new initiatives by management.

Despite their skill and serious commitment to change, the way ahead for the mining industry is extremely precarious.

If this analysis is correct then there is one area which must be seen as a No. 1 priority. Adequate labour representation for Blacks, so the new initiatives will be planned and executed not for the workers but with the workers.

Right

The workers must have the right to negotiate their own conditions and must be consulted before decisions affecting their welfare are taken. If such machinery existed, the riots following the unilateral decision by the Lesotho Government might have been prevented.

The introduction of a trade union organisation for Blacks in the mining industry, with its rapid labour turnover and its heavy dependence on foreign labour, will tax the ingenuity of the most experienced and skilled labour organiser and will demand from management patience, wisdom and maximum co-operation.

Rewards

If such a trade union were allowed and even encouraged, it would be surprising if the workers did not push and push hard for improved rewards and conditions, including substantial increases and accommodation for married workers' families, thereby bringing a measure of stability and normality.

Further, a union is a two edged sword imposing responsibilities and obligations on the workers — something which seems non-existent at present

The introduction of a trade union will not be a panacea for all problems but without such a strong labour movement to be held in tension with strong management, the future of the mining industry is grim indeed and the potential for massive labour unrest a very real prospect.

STAR 13/1/75

The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — Officials from the Vaal Reefs gold mine are meeting Lesotho Government labour officials here today to discuss the disturbances at the mine.

Mr Michael de Jager, compound manager at Vaal Reefs, said on arrival that he hoped the talks would lead to a permanent solution of the problem over the new deferred pay scheme.

He said that although law and order had been restored at the mine, the normal work force of 26 000 miners had not yet been reached. About 18 000 men were back at work.

SHAMELESS

The Lesotho Prime Minister, Dr Leabua Jonathan, told a public meeting in the Leribe district at the weekend that the wages of mineworkers should be proportionate to the price of gold on the world market.

"Anything less would be shameless capitalism," he said.

He said that interviews with the returned miners had shown that they were satisfied with the new scheme of payment and were pleased that their money would be deposited with the Lesotho Bank, where it would earn interest.

The Labour Reporter was told by Vaal Reefs (Anglo American) today that more than 18 200 Black workers went underground after a quiet weekend.

More than 8 000 men have left the mine since the riots and faction fights, in which eight men died. The exact number is not known because many who received train tickets did not leave, but drifted back to Vaal Reefs.

shop.

STAR 14/1/69

Mine death toll 10

The death toll from last week's riots at the Vaal Reefs gold mine has risen to 10 with the death of two of the seriously injured men.

The list of the dead announced by Anglo American today is: Mr K Ramboti, Mr G Ramollo, Mr K Tsatsi, Mr Z Tshisakubi, Mr T Tembane, Mr T Phakathi, Mr D Siphiwe, Mr B Phephise, Mr S Josana and Mr M Shoapane.

With its Black labour force reduced by about 8 000 to 18 000, the mine is working in specific areas rather than spreading labour throughout the workings.

Staff Reporter

Rdm 14/1/69

THE LESOTHO Government wants Basotho miners working in SA to have the right to strike.

This right should be written into the miners' contracts said Mr J. R. M. Moitse, Minister of Commerce and Industry.

He also wanted his countrymen on the mines to be given responsibilty commensurate with each one's ability.

Speaking on Lesotho Radio's newsreel, the Minister also said the government would take over responsibility for mine labourers' contracts from the Mine Labour Organisation. In that way the government would strive to better mineworkers' conditions, particularly where nourishment and health were concerned.

This statement follows a visit today by an official of Vaal Reefs gold mine, a representative of the Mine Labour Organisation and three African indunas, who had come to Lesotho for discussions with the Lesotho Government after last week's strike which left eight miners dead and others injured.

Trouble started when Basotho miners protested against new legislation, introduced by the Lesotho Government from January 1, requiring all miners from Lesotho to send 60 per cent of their salaries to the Lesotho National Bank until the end of their contracts with the South African mine.

The mine official said things at Vaal Reefs were getting back to normal but the mine was still short of its full complement of 26 000 workers.

However, 18 000 miners had already returned to the mine from Lesotho and there was a steady daily flow.

No statement was issued after the meeting, which lasted the whole morning.

STAR 14/1/75

213

The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — Lesotho has proposed a unique form of strike action for its mineworkers in terms of which the miners would leave the South African mines to exercise their right to strike within their own country.

Speaking on the Radio Lesotho programme, "Newsreel," last night, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr Joel Moitse, said that when the miners arrived home they would get their Government to negotiate their contracts on their behalf—from within Lesotho territory.

He said the Basotho miners would adopt this course to avoid "going about striking inside South Africa."

CONDITIONS

"If they want improvements in their working conditions they must come home and negotiate with the body created by the Lesotho Government for the purpose," the Minister said.

Mr Moitse said that in this way the Basotho miners would be exercising the right to strike like any "fully fledged citizen of any country."

He said the Lesotho Government was beginning to look into the question of introducing medical services for the miners, as many sick men in the past had escaped the notice of doctors when they returned home from the mines.

DISEASES

Many of them brought into Lesotho venereal diseases and miners' phthisis which destroyed them once they settled down in the country.

On the miners' pay, Mr Moitse said their wages "must reflect the risks involved in mining operations."

He said the whole mine labour system had to be changed to break the rigidity of the colour bar system.

Miners tell of terror

The Star's Africa News Service

GABORONE—About 600 Batswana miners from the Vaal Reefs gold mine have arrived here in a special train with stories of bloodshed and terror at the mine.

They are quoted in the local Daily News as saying the unrest took a violent turn when Xhosas in the compounds accused Batswana and Basotho of being trouble-makers and attacked them, "hitting and killing indiscriminately."

The Batswana and Basotho fled to nearby villages for safety and returned to find the mining area cordoned off by armed police.

The miners spent two days outside the compound and were allowed back only to collect their belongings before leaving.

They said about 60 of their colleagues had set out on foot or by bicycle for their homes in Botswana.

They would think twice about returning to Vaal Reefs.

1975

(213) STAR 15/1/75

The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — Dr Leabua Jonathan, Prime Minister of Lesotho, launched a bitter attack on the South African mining groups today. He questioned the old deferred payment system for Basotho mineworkers — claiming this meant the miners were not paid interest on money they had earned.

STAR 15/1/75

Labour Reporter

About 2 400 Basotho workers from the President Brand gold mine near Welkom are being sent to Lesotho today after a night of violence and arson in which five were hurt.

A spokesman for Anglo American said the trouble erupted when the 2 400 Basotho at the 5 000-man No 2 Shaft hostel prevented the night shift from going underground.

Windows were broken in the administration block and thatched roofing in the sports arena was set alight.

Police moved in and order was restored at about midnight. The five injured workers were not seriously hurt.

A police spokesman said several policemen were hurt when they were stoned by the workers.

1975

PAY ROW

All was quiet at the mine today. The rest of the 13 000 labour force was working as usual while the 2 400 Basothos involved in the rioting prepared to leave.

The decision to send the rioters home was taken in accordance with a policy decision adopted after previous riots which, like last night's, resulted from Basotho objections to the compulsory deferment of pay.

Representatives of the Basotho workers at Western Deep, near Carletonville, left for Lesotho today to make representations to their government about the deferred pay legislation.

They were accompanied by mine officials.

A similar delegation from Vaal Reefs, where 10 mineworkers have died from rioting over the same dispute, went to Lesotho on Monday.

Speaking on Radio Lesotho, he said: "Interest on deferred pay was not paid into the pockets of the mineworkers but to the Chamber of Mines, which alleges that it ultimately paid it to schools and hospitals in Lesotho."

It would be interesting if Mr D A Etheredge of Anglo-American would explain how much money earned by the Basotho mineworkers had been saved under the old system and how much interest had accrued.

Dr Jonathan was replying to Mr Etheredge's statement that recent unrest on the mines was due not to the way that management had explained the Lesotho Government's new deferred payments law to the workers but to dislike of the law itself.

In terms of the new legislation, 60 percent of earnings in South Africa have to be paid into accounts at the Lesotho Bank.

"It is not true that the stand taken by the Lesotho Government is unacceptable to the Basotho mineworkers in the South African mines," Dr Jonathan said.

"AGITATORS"

"But the step is not acceptable to Mr Etheredge, his mining group, the South African Chamber of Mines and all the capitalist companies of South Africa."

Dr Jonathan described suggestions that Basotho mineworkers had no confidence in the Lesotho Government or the Lesotho Bank as "utter nonsense."

They were disproved by the number of Basotho still entering contracts to work on the South African mines and by the number of people opening accounts with the bank.

He said the "unfounded objection" to the new deferred pay legislation could be traced to "the influence of a few political agitators in the mine compounds."

miners die in wake of Vaal riots

RDM 15/1/75

Staff Reporter

TWO OF THE African miners injured in last week's riots at Vaal Reefs have died. And Anglo American has disclosed that 1 900 Basotho miners went on strike at the President Brand mine in the Free State at the weekend.

The two further deaths yesterday bring the number of men who have died following the Vaal Reefs riots to 10.

A spokesman for Anglo American revealed that the strike at President Brand — previously untroubled by the present wave of strikes — began when 1 900 Basotho refused to go underground on Saturday in protest against the Lesotho Government's deferred pay scheme.

They returned to work on Monday after mine management had promised to refer the protest to the Lesotho Government.

At Vaal Reefs, 13 200 men reported for underground duty. The mine is still about 8 000 men down on its normal complement.

In the meantime, work on some projects has been stopped so as to concentrate the available labour on specific sections.

Those who have died at Vaal Reefs are: Mr K. Rambuti, Mr G. Ramolio, Mr K. Tsatsi, Mr Z. Tshisakubi, Mr T. Tembane, Mr T. Phakhati, Mr D. Siphiwe, Mr B. Phepise, Mr S. Josana and Mr M. Shoapane.

Two mineworkers were killed in separate accidents at Welkom yesterday, mine spokesmen have announced. Their names are being withheld until the next of kin have been notified.

The Mail Africa Bureau reports from Maseru that the Lesotho Government has urged Malawi, Rhodesia, Botswana and the African homelands to hold on to their miners' deferred pay earnings, rather than let their monies earn interest in South Africa.

Lesotho has told its miners that under a compulsory new scheme, 60 per cent of their earnings will be deducted for forwarding to the Lesotho Government.

at Welkom

RDM 16/1/75 (69)

213

B JOHANN STOLTZ

MOST of the heavily-armed police on alert at the President Brand goldmine at Welkom throughout the day yesterday were withdrawn to the town last night and kept on standby to quell any further rioting

About 2 400 Basotho miners were dismissed yesterday following a night of rioting and arson in which five African mine policemen and five miners were injured as several thousand Basotho of No. 2 Hostel went on strike

The Chamber of Mines warned recently that strict action would be taken in the event of riots or strikes

The Basotho claimed they were unhappy about the Lesotho Government's new law requiring 60 per cent of miners' pay to be deposited in Lesotho from January 1.

The rioting broke out shortly before midnight Thousands of rands damage was caused to mine property as recreation huts were burnt down and windows smashed

A "Mail" Africa Bureau report from Maseru said the first round of talks between the Lesotho Government and a delegation of Basotho mineworkers from Western Deep Levels on the controversial legislation took place in the Lesotho capital yesterday

The legislation came into effect from January 1 this year It has resulted in a series of strikes by Basotho mineworkers in the South African gold mines A number of people have been killed and others injured

The deputation is made up of 26 mineworkers. Six held talks with the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr J R. M Moitse and other senior government officials yesterday.

This is the first time a Black miners' deputation has been sent to negotiate with the government at home

The deputation is accompanied by Mr P. J. Petersen, personnel manager at Western Deep Levels, and Mr J. H Morris, chief hostel manager, but neither took part in the talks

Mr Petersen said: "This is an internal matter between the Basotho mineworkers and their government."

There will be further talks today.

Rioting at President Brand mine on Tuesday broke out shortly before midnight. Thousands of rands damage was caused to mine property, writes a staff reporter. Thatched-roofed recreation huts were burnt down, trees broken and hundreds of windows smashed.

Bird cages in the hostel grounds were broken into and birds killed Furniture and windows in an induna's flat were smashed.

Police reinforcements from 17 Free State towns were called to the mine. They were armed with Sten and sub-machineguns, R1 and .303 rifles, shotguns, revolvers, teargas and batons.

PAST

The Lesotho miners are accused of threatening other tribes with violence if they reported for nightshift.

Police entered the hostel and dispersed the strikers. But Brigadier R. J. Rousseau, divisional commissioner for the Northern Free State, denied reports that the police had clashed with the miners.

Asked whether more trouble was expected, he said "We believe the rioting is something of the past"

Throughout the day, hundreds of Basotho gathered with their belongings on Mosuthi railway station, at the African township near Welkom Some were rowdy and aggressive Railway policemen were on standby.

A mine spokesman said yesterday that 5 000 mineworkers went to work at the President Brand's No 2 shaft. At one stage Xhosas refused to go underground and said they were afraid of being assaulted.

● Two experts from the headquarters of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva has arrived in Maseru to study the labour situation in Lesotho. A spokesman for the two-man delegation said they were to investigate ways in which job opportunities for the Basotho nation could be graded. They leave again early next week.

Jonathan challenges Anglo on Basotho pay

THE PRIME MINISTER of Lesotho, Chief Leabua Jonathan, yesterday challenged the Anglo American Corporation to spell out how much interest had accrued from Basotho miners' savings.

Speaking on Radio Lesotho, Dr Jonathan reacted to a reported statement by Mr D A. Etheredge, chairman of Anglo America's gold division, that it was not the way the new pay deferment law was explained to the miners which had caused trouble, but dislike of the law itself

"The fact was it was a step which was not acceptable to Mr Etheridge himself, his mining group, South African Chamber of Mines and all the capitalist companies of South Africa," said Dr Jonathan.

Mr Etheredge should publicly explain how much money earned by the Basotho miners — who never numbered less than 150 000 — had been saved under the old system and how much interest had accrued.

He should also say whether the owners of the money ever agreed that the interest on their savings should not be paid to them, Dr Jonathan said

An Anglo American statement issued yesterday said the interest on the miners' money was ploughed back as gifts to institutions catering for the Basotho. — Sapa.

16/1/78 RDM

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By JOHN IMRIE
Labour Editor 16/1

THE present serious unrest among Basuto mineworkers might have been avoided if the mining industry had responded to approaches made to it several weeks ago by the Trade Union Council of South Africa.

This claim was made yesterday by an angry Mr Arthur Grobbelaar, general secretary of Tucsa, who revealed that he had unsuccessfully sought discussions with both Anglo American Corporation and the Chamber of Mines after talks he had last year with the embryo Lesotho Mine Labour Workers' Union in Maseru.

Mr Grobbelaar's full statement reads "The blame for the continuing and escalating industrial unrest among Basuto mineworkers on various gold mines must be laid squarely at the door of the mining companies themselves.

"On November 23 last year I held initial discussions with the provisional committee of the embryo Lesotho Mine Labour Workers' Union in Maseru after Tucsa had been approached for assistance in forming a union for African miners.

"It is significant that among the subjects discussed at that meeting was the grievance issue of deferred pay — evidently the cause of the present unrest.

"On my return to South Africa from Maseru I publicly (through the columns of the Rand Daily Mail of December 2) reported on the discussions with the people I had met, and also gave as my opinion that the industry should quickly come to terms with the new union which was being formed.

"I also pointed out that there was a definite possibility that unless the intended union was recognised, these migrant workers could easily become the pawns of politicians in their home countries, since their grievances were real and their frustration threshold had been reached.

"I also immediately contacted the office of the Labour Adviser to Anglo American Corporation, and the office of the president of the Chamber of Mines, with a view to discussing the issues which had been raised at the meeting and cool down the potentially explosive situation developing.

"Neither of the two authorities approached responded. I submit that an opportunity was lost which could possibly have prevented the recent spate of mine disturbances.

"The consequent loss of life, curtailed gold production, further worsening of labour relations and a loss of confidence in the industry could all have been avoided, and both South Africa and Lesotho would not have been harmed in the worst possible way.

"When are large employers of Black labour going to face up to reality? How many more opportunities for improving communications are they going to let slip much longer afford their wishy-washy tactics for combating the contemporary past, and can South Africa problems of our modern industrial society?"

At the crossroads

F.M. 17/1/75 213

Violence on the mines has become endemic. How can it be eliminated?

The death in hospital of another two men at Vaal Reefs at the weekend brings the number of Black miners killed in violence on South Africa's mines since the Western Deep Levels shootings in September 1973 to 83. At least 14 mines have now experienced violent deaths; at least another eight have seen worker unrest or strikes; and seven men were shot dead at the Ressano Garcia border post last June in a dispute over rand-escudo exchange rates.

Pay grievances, inter-tribal hostility, disputes over women, and now disaffection over Lesotho's compulsory deferred pay scheme (*FM* January 10) have evidently been the proximate causes of much of the violence.

Jonathan . . . the real target of the violence?

In many cases the incidents resulted in demands by the miners for repatriation. But fortunately for the industry, stoppages arising from the violence have so far been short-lived and overall production targets have generally been maintained. However, the danger of violent incidents escalating into major confrontations with the police with widespread loss of life is ever-present.

The industry has now clearly reached the crossroads. It can be content with putting out the fires as and when they occur and hope for the best. Or it can attempt to devise a completely new deal for Black miners — in consultation with them

If violence is to be eliminated its root causes must be discovered. Why do men resort to violence because they don't like a new deferred pay system? Why should a stabbing result in an inter-tribal fracas?

To dismiss the problem with "the Blacks are pretty volatile people," as one mining man did this week, is not only too easy. It is wrong. By and large, considering the conditions under which they live and work, Africans are a pretty docile people. Black miners have only become volatile over the last eighteen months. Why?

Since the discovery of diamonds and gold the migrant labour and compound system has served the industry more or less satisfactorily — although it has wrought havoc with African family life.

To what extent this labour system is itself an underlying cause of what has become endemic violence no one can be sure. But it certainly cannot be ruled out.

Last weekend, in an attempt to learn what may lie behind the violence, the *FM* visited five mines in the Welkom and Orkney areas. According to the general manager of one OFS mine, the coming of independence to surrounding countries seems to have generated a feeling among miners that they did not have to work so hard and that the fruits of affluence would automatically come their way.

He added that long periods spent away from families left men few productive outlets for their spare time. Hence heavier drinking — made possible by higher wages — and inevitably greater belligerence. Significantly, the manager also said that the few men who have their families with them are generally better workers. "It's a necessity to increase married housing."

For their part, Black miners told the *FM* that pay remained far too low, and that they felt unable to make financial progress even with the increased pay scales. They complained of an almost total lack of communication between White officials and the workers, and cited what they regarded as recently broken promises over increased wages, leading to confusion.

Even where there was a works committee (supported as a step forward), miners felt it was used only to stop trouble once it occurred, rather than as a forum for the airing of miners' views.

At Welkom, a group comprising

Xhosas, Ndebeles, and Basotho asserted that "faction-fighting" was grossly overplayed by mine officials and the Press.

Why do they always blame everything on this so-called faction fighting? Why don't they look, instead, at the conditions under which we work and the pay we get?

They also complained that the Lesotho government had not consulted the miners over the new deferred pay arrangements.

The miners also felt that officials did not care about them, beyond wanting to maintain their productivity. They felt, too, that there is little dignity in mining and that pay is low given the nature of the work.

It would be unwise to generalise from these first-hand and inevitably superficial impressions. But they do suggest that any inquiry into the causes of the violence should include a thorough going examination not only of the total living and working environment of Black miners, but also of their changing perceptions of their situation.

This seems to be the crucial variable. Things which miners appeared meekly to accept for so long — paternalism, lack of consultation, treatment as undifferentiated units of labour, the compound and migrant system — no longer seem acceptable.

And, of course, Black miners — who, along with farm labourers and domestic servants are the cinderellas of our Black workforce — must have been affected by events around them: the Durban strikes two years ago; the liberation of Mozambique; the growth of a Black consciousness movement; prospects of a new deal for Blacks in Rhodesia, South West Africa, and Angola; demands for Black trade unions; the militant mood in Ovamboland.

What has probably begun to change dramatically is the miners' view of themselves and their situation. Hence the new volatility and the new aggressiveness.

The problem is that the industry is ill-equipped to cope with it. Ironically, reforms which have been introduced — rational job structuring, higher wages — themselves appear on occasion to have generated unrest.

This is not surprising. Changes and improvements nearly always lead to expectations of further change. The question which arises is whether these rising aspirations can be accommodated within the shackles of an outmoded system which cuts men off from their families and herds them together in barrack-like compounds. The answer must surely be "No".

It can no longer make sense to expect a man to work and act responsibly in a modern industrial environment, and yet confine him within a system whose foundations lie in the 19th century. Hence the need to search beyond the incidents which sparked off unrest for underlying causes within the system as a whole. For example, are the recurring tribal fights merely "part and parcel of the tradition of 'faction-fighting' on the mines since the turn of the century — it's almost a sport" — as the Chamber of Mines believes, or are there new factors involved?

The problem is how to get at the truth. It is complicated by many factors

Firstly, not all sections of the mining industry are agreed on the need for rapid change. For example, while some mining men regard migratory labour as unsatisfactory, a Chamber spokesman this week told the *FM* it was a "blessing" for many miners. "They don't want to bring their wives with them."

Secondly, any move to phase out the migrant labour system — or even to provide for more family housing — will run up against government policy.

Thirdly, the future supply of labour from Malawi is uncertain, and Anglo American at least is now working on the assumption that it may get no more miners from Malawi.

Fourthly, domestic Lesotho politics is involved. The *FM*'s investigations into violence on the Free State goldfields early last year (*FM* March 8 1974) revealed strong anti-Jonathan sentiments among miners there, and an Anglo man this week told the *FM* that there were political motives behind the Vaal Reefs troubles and that at least half the Lesotho miners there were believed to be anti-Jonathan.

The Chamber of Mines is likewise convinced that the mines are the innocent victims of a political dispute in Lesotho.

Fifth, any radical changes in the migrant-compound system will involve a number of foreign governments.

A full-scale inter-governmental commission of inquiry into mine labour, with special reference to possible changes in the migrant system and trade unions for Black miners is long overdue. The problem is that it will inevitably involve time-consuming negotiations to set up.

But the Chamber of Mines could itself usefully make a start. This week it said it would "spare no money trying to find out what is going on."

Urgently needed in the interim, however, is an investigation into the causes of the violence itself. This need not involve either the SA government or any foreign government. It could be commissioned by the Chamber or by the mining houses which have been most severely affected. But it will need to be conducted by qualified people who are *independent* of the industry. Past experience shows that Black workers are afraid to talk frankly to their employers.

Such an inquiry would be able, largely on the basis of consultations with the Black miners themselves, to pinpoint both the immediate and the underlying causes of the trouble. It could report within six months, and its findings would serve as a useful starting point for a later inter-governmental commission.

Delay could turn South Africa's mining industry into a house of cards.

HANSARD. 3. Q. 205-06-07-08-09-210.
21 February 1975.

150

Police intervention in respect of strikes

*9 Dr A I BORAINE asked the Minister of Police

(1) Whether police intervention was sought in respect of any strikes during the second half of 1974, if so, in respect of what strikes,

(2) whether any workers were (a) arrested and (b) charged, if so, (i) how many in respect of each strike and (ii) what were the charges against the strikers in each case

†The MINISTER OF POLICE (Reply laid upon Table with leave of House)

(1) Yes, in respect of strikes at the following concerns

(a) S A Bias Binding, Johannesburg

(b) Transvaal Metal Works, Johannesburg

(c) Float Glass Works, Johannesburg

(d) National Cold Storage, Johannesburg

(e) Remco S A Johannesburg

(f) [illegible] Johannesburg

(g) Turnwright Sweet Manufacturing Co, Johannesburg

(h) Galic Construction, Johannesburg

(i) Geo Stott Johannesburg

(j) Rupini Bros Johannesburg

(k) Prefab Concrete Johannesburg

(l) Randburg City Council, Randburg

(m) Bubble Pools, Johannesburg

(n) Imextra Johannesburg

(o) Jabula Hostel Rustenburg Platinum Mine Rustenburg

(p) Western Platinum Mine, Rustenburg

(q) Impala Mine No 2 Hostel, Rustenburg

(r) Amandelbult Platinum Mine, Rustenburg

(s) No 4 Compound, Hartbeesfontein GM, Stilfontein

(t) No 5 Compound Hartbeesfontein GM, Stilfontein

(u) No 7 Compound, Hartbeesfontein GM, Stilfontein

(v) Western Deep Levels GM, Carletonville

(w) E R P M, Germiston

(x) Pilkington Glass Works, Springs.

(y) E R P M, Boksburg

(z) Rydall Walls, Boksburg

(aa) Zubini Bros, Boksburg

(bb) Park Bakery, Isando

(cc) R L Southey, Modderfontein Dynamite Factory

(dd) Kempton Park Municipality, Kempton Park

(ee) RACFC Engineering, Kempton Park

(ff) Lock Joint Pipe Co, Bethal

(gg) LTA Construction, Ulundi, Natal

(hh) Alexander Hamilton Construction, Empangeni

(ii) New Watson Hotel, Pietermaritzburg

(jj) Reef Rail Construction, Pietermaritzburg

(kk) Rand Roads Construction, Ladysmith

(ll) Amalgamated Reinforcing, Pietermaritzburg

(mm) University of Zululand (Building workers)

(nn) Johnson Civil Engineering, Pietermaritzburg

(oo) Empangeni Transport, Empangeni

(pp) Municipality of Pietermaritzburg (Forestry Dept)

(qq) Sapekoe Tea Plantation, Ngome

(rr) Balgray Collieries, Utrecht

(ss) RACFC Construction, Hattinghspruit

(tt) Felixton Sugar Mills, Empangeni

(uu) Big Chief Bakery, Inchange

(vv) Baynesfield Bacon Factory, Thornville, Natal

(ww) Zululand Sugar Mills, Empangeni

(xx) RACEC Construction, Ladysmith

(yy) W J Leith Construction, Ladysmith

(zz) Waterton Timbers, Kwa-Mbonambi

(aaa) Tongaat Rice Mill, Tongaat.

(bbb) Simon Foods, Durban

(ccc) Darnall Sugar Mills, Darnall.

(ddd) Melville Sugar Mills, Stanger.

(eee) Wilson and Coutts, East London

(fff) Consolidated Textiles, East London

(ggg) Rescei Laboratories, East London

(hhh) Car Distributors Assembly, East London

(iii) Cementile Products, East London

(jjj) Border Passenger Transport, East London

(kkk) Dunlop, East London

(lll) Goodhope Textiles, King William's Town

(mmm) Loxton Diamond Mine, Boshoff

(nnn) Oranje Dairies, Welkom

(ooo) WFMM Engineering Welkom

(ppp) Copperton Mine, De Aar

(qqq) Blackrock Manganese Mine, Kuruman

(2) (a) and (b) Yes

Strike [See (1)]	(i)	(ii)
(e)	4	Illegal strike
(h)	40	Illegal strike
(i)	7	Illegal strike
(j)	17	Illegal strike
(k)	139	Illegal strike
(l)	307	Breach of contract by persons employed in public utility services
(o)	11	Public Violence
(q)	18	Intimidation of persons in relation to their employment
(s)	7	Public Violence
(u)	2	Assault on police
(v)	25	Public Violence
(ee)	19	Illegal strike
(tt)	1	Intimidation of persons in relation to their employment
(ww)	2	Intimidation of persons in relation to their employment
(ccc)	2	Incitement of others to take part in a strike
(eee)	1	Intimidation of persons in relation to their employment
(fff)	1	Intimidation of persons in relation to their employment
(ggg)	108	Unlawful obstruction of public street
(mmm)	9	Illegal strike
(nnn)	24	Illegal strike
(ooo)	49	Illegal strike
(ppp)	18	Public Violence
(qqq)	30	Refusing to obey lawful command of employer

on rioting

RDM 6/3/75

Labour Correspondent

THREE experts have expressed three different views on whether mines should be staffed by homogeneous labour forces in the interests of reducing faction fights

The Chamber of Mines, however, has remained silent on the issue

Mr Arthur Grobbelaar, general secretary of TUCSA, said yesterday that the mines were employing a divide and rule philosophy "This cannot work in a modern context — it is contributing to the development of hatred

"Violence will continue and probably escalate while mixed African groups work on the same mines," he said

The general manager of the Mines Labour Organisation, Mr Tony Fleischer, has said that if mine labour forces were homogeneous, mines would run the risk of strikes being total instead of partial

He points out that if any of the mines where Malawians went on strike late last year had been employing Malawians only, they could have been left with no workers at all

Dr Gideon Jacobs, UP spokesman on labour, is also opposed to the homogeneity idea — but for a different reason "It would be evading the problem and not solving it"

"We should be trying to overcome ethnic differences, not pandering to them," he said in an interview yesterday

AGITATOR

A spokesman for the Chamber of Mines told the Rand Daily Mail yesterday that the chamber could not give an opinion on the subject as this was the prerogative of individual mining companies.

However, officials of leading mining groups said they could not comment as the matter was one for the chamber.

Most mining men believe the best labour composition formula is a "good mix"

In the meantime, the theory that outside agitators are behind the recent upsurge in mine violence has received unexpected support — a Left-wing London journal has claimed that anti-apartheid activists are making use of ethnic division on the mines to create enmity and disruption

The labour crisis in the two troubled coal mines in Northern Natal grew graver yesterday

Another 200 workers from the riot-torn Hlobane colliery in Dundee asked to be repatriated yesterday and are expected to leave within the next few days, reports a Rand Daily Mail correspondent

This move by workers follows the repatriation on Monday of more than 500 workers after the weekend disturbances at the Hlobane Colliery and the Northfield Colliery in Glencoe

Production on Northfield Colliery was minimal yesterday with only 500 out of the normal 1 555 miners working, said Mr D. J Ackermann, a liaison officer for General Mining

Hlobane Colliery was not as bad and production was down to 65 per cent

"The general feeling is that matters have settled down now and cannot get any worse," said Mr Ackermann.

Meanwhile, recently released statistics indicate the intake of Black South Africans to the country's mines is up by nearly 10 000 for the last two months over the equivalent period last year

NOT US

Mr Fleischer said yesterday that 85 700 Africans from within the Republic had enrolled for mine contracts in January and February Over the same period in 1974 there were 75 800

Recruitment of Malawians was 15 000 for the two-month period last year. This year it was nil, in accordance with President Banda's ban on South African recruitment.

No Government department will admit to jurisdiction over mine labour disturbances writes the "Mail" Labour correspondent

"Not us", said a Department of Labour official yesterday — "We only cover labour outside the mines Try the Department of Mines"

"No", said the Secretary of Mines, Mr W P. Viljoen "We are only on the sidelines As far as conditions within mines go, we are mainly concerned with health and safety

"Strikes and rioting do not really fall under the normal definition of either of those."

A spokesman for the Department of Bantu Administration and Development said his department was only involved in recruitment, licensing and housing on the mines.

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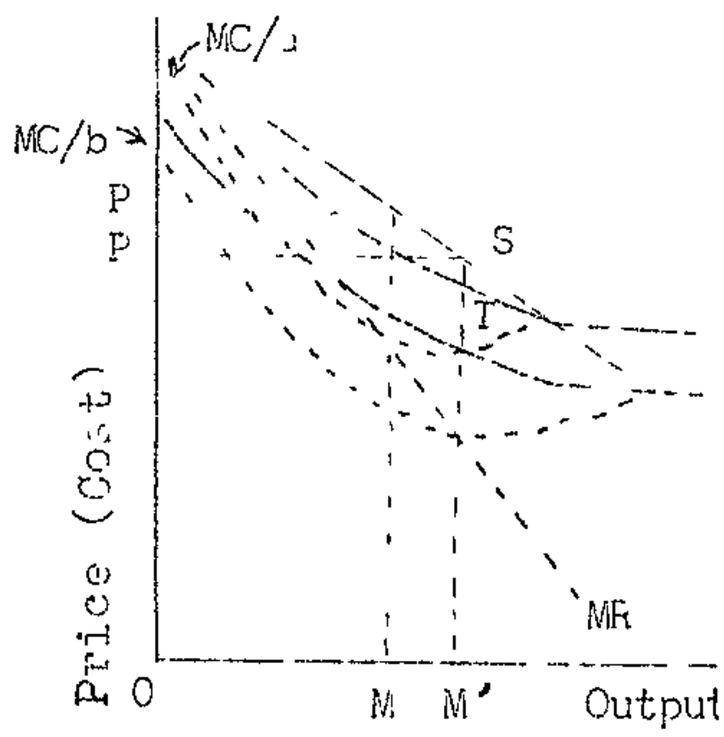

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FM

Financial Mail
MARCH 7
1975

213

Spotlight on the mines

The mining industry faces formidable problems. Their solution requires some radical re-thinking

Renewed violence on the mines at the weekend brings the death-toll over the past 18 months up to 130 The *FM* has repeatedly urged a thorough investigation ever since the Carletonville riots in September 1973, and it is a great pity hat a full-scale inquiry is only now being started

It will, the *FM* understands, include epresentatives of the Departments of Mines, Bantu Administration, Labour, oreign Affairs and the SA Police

There are, however, several reservaions about this form of inquiry Firstly, is essential to examine not only the *nmediate* causes of each outbreak of iolence, but also the total situation of lack miners, including the psychoolo- cal and sociological effects of living in mpounds under the migrant labour stem

Will an interdepartmental inquiry be le to examine that system, free of cological commitments? How far will recommendations be able to go? For ample, if it finds that abnormal living nditions are an underlying factor, will e able to recommend family housing? The second reservation is that Black ners may not be willing to talk frankly a government committee

Escalating violence is only one of a t of problems facing the industry

abour supply. January was a good ruiting month and men have been irning to Vaal Reefs after the recent est there over deferred pay. Chamber Mines president, Dolf Schumann, this k told the *FM* that the gold-mines have 76% of their underground ur needs — a slight improvement he gold mines are hoping to double proportion of SA miners to around of labour requirements (Of course figure will be dramatically reduced n the Transkei — the major source A miners — becomes independent) matter is urgent because of the nuing monthly drain of some 5 000 awians as they finish their contracts go home There is still no sign from dent Banda as to when — or if — ill allow recruiting to be resumed hether or not the mines attract more SA labour depends on many imponderables Citing the "target-worker" phenomenon, some influential mining men believe that, although higher pay may increase the absolute labour supply, it could lead to miners staying at home longer between contracts

Whether this will happen depends in turn on factors about which little is known — for example, the extent to which rising demand for consumer goods (and hence for cash) in the Bantustans has made the "target worker" a thing of the past

Another unknown is the extent and effects of landlessness among Homeland people It is almost certainly increasing because of population removals from the common area to the Homelands. Men who have had to move to "closer settlements" with high unemployment and very little farming land (such as Dimbaza) may have to take whatever jobs they can get, whereas those able to eke out a living from subsistence agriculture have more choice.

Other imponderables are the factors behind the traditional reluctance of South African Blacks to work on the mines How high will wages have to rise to overcome fears of accidents or aversion to working underground?

- **Wages.** Another Black wage increase is due in mid-year What effects will this have on poorer mines? And on the Chamber's policy of keeping wages as uniform as possible?

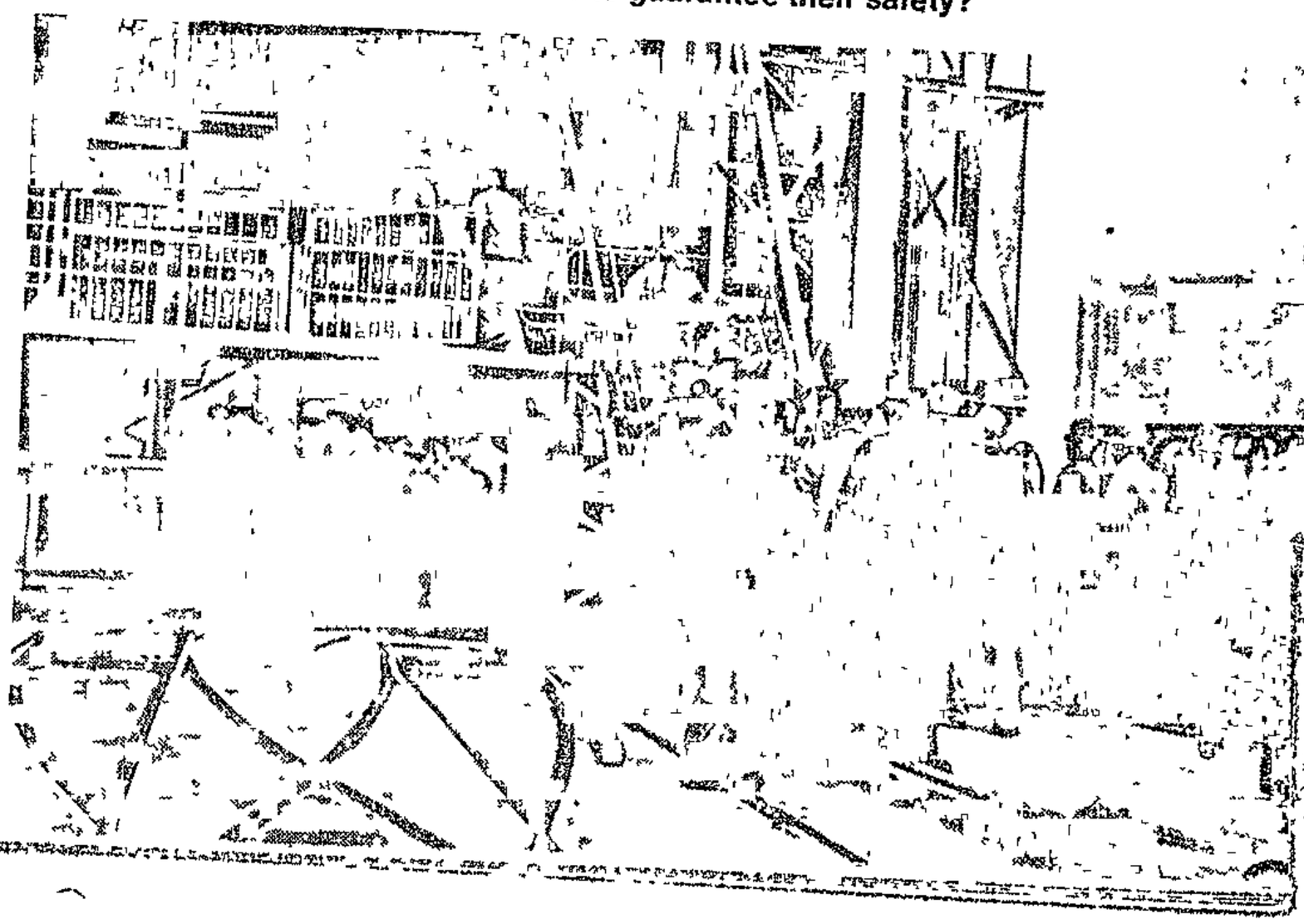
Is there not a chance that greater competition for Black labour will herald the end of the Chamber's recruiting organisations?

Some mining houses want to increase wages more rapidly than others But the belief in the industry that different wages on neighbouring mines in the Free State led to violence there last June adds another dimension to the problem

As if that were not enough, there is the question of the White miners In order to couple higher Black wages with productivity gains, colour restrictions have to be eased further But Arnie Paulus hardly seems in the mood for this

- **Job structures.** Better use of Black labour necessitates rationalizing outdated job structures The industry is hoping to adopt a common job evaluation system with uniform pay-notches by mid-year If agreement can be reached on this — bonuses appear to be the main stumbling-block at the

Coming off shift . . . how to guarantee their safety?



moment — the problem of implementation remains Changes in wage differentials were thought to be behind the disturbances at Western Deep in 1973

● **Communication.** Successful implementation of new job structures depends on good communication Anglo men tell the *FM* that the problem of downward communication on their mines — from management to workers — is ne ing solution But upward communication remains a major difficulty — and the one cannot really work effectively without the other

Some groups favour trying to improve the induna system Others want to replace it by a committee system

Should such a system be based on the work situation (as at Western Deep) or on the compounds? And will Black miners be willing to use it?

How far is the industry prepared to go in considering the alternative of trade unionism — especially if government is less than enthusiastic?

How do you communicate effectively with a labour-force that often runs into tens of thousands?

● **Homeland and foreign governments.** When trouble has broken out, representatives of the governments of supplying territories have sometimes been brought in as mediators Should their involvement now be extended and formalised? Is it desirable for governments to be directly involved in industrial relations?

If so, what of the problem of Chief Jonathan's unpopularity among Basotho miners? Will the Prime Minister of an independent Transkei be accepted by Xhosa miners as their spokesman?

● **Family housing.** Government has indicated its willingness to consider sympathetically requests by mines to house more Black men in married quarters Stepping up the proportion from 3% to 10% of the work-force has been suggested

More family housing is an important step in the right direction Dolf Schumann, however, says older mines could not afford it and that it will not in any case be economically feasible on labour intensive mines without much chance of mechanizing

With regard to the new mines still on the drawing boards, is there not a strong case for allowing all those mines who want to bring their families with them to do so? It would of course necessitate the provision of infrastructure and also of jobs for wives who wish to work.

Such a move, by allowing for a permanent exodus of some migrant workers from the Homelands would probably ease pressure on scarce land resources there

● **Effects on White farmers.** Will the additional SA miners come from urban areas, Bantustans, or White farms? The Chamber now has three recruiting offices on the Reef

The farms have long relied on influx control to hold poorly-paid workers on the farms, and higher mine wages, coupled with more intensive recruiting, could pose serious problems for this sector — to which the weight of the platteland vote gives a political dimension

Another imponderable is the labour situation in the farming sector -- are there supply bottlenecks? To what extent have mechanisation and administrative controls against squatters and labour tenants been pushing Africans off the land already?

● **Industry.** What implications does all this have for manufacturing, and for the wages paid by, say, Seifsa members? Some mining men however believe that there are enough unemployed men illegally in Soweto to meet the mines' labour requirements.

There are of course dozens of other questions to be asked, for the mines' problems have far-reaching implications No doubt some of them can be solved in the short-term by tinkering with the present set-up — improving the induna system, building smaller and more manageable compounds, etc

For a longer-term solution, however, it is imperative that government and the industry alike contemplate bold, fundamental, radical changes If, for example, the interdepartmental inquiry finds that the compound system is an underlying cause of the violence, and then shies away from suggesting that it be changed, we will be back to square one

That is the last thing the mines — or the country — can afford

(213)

Migrant mine labour system behind the riots

Sunday Times March 9 1975

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-ONE black miners have lost their lives in clashes on South African gold, coal, copper and platinum mines since September 11, 1973.

By STANLEY UYS
SUNDAY TIMES Political Editor

During the same period 469 have been injured in the disturbances.

In the clash of September 11, 1973, which occurred at the Western Deep Levels Gold Mine at Carletonville, 11 miners were shot dead by the police. Most of the other 120 miners died at the hands of their fellow-workers.

Some of the clashes were over pay disputes or, as happened recently, over the compulsory transference of deferred pay to the Lesotho National Bank; but usually they were triggered off by trivial quarrels that erupted into inter-tribal fighting.

A familiar riot pattern has emerged over the past 18 months Armed with sticks, axes, pangas and stones, Black miners have gone on the rampage — killing, injuring and mutilating their fellow-workers, wrecking and burning down mine buildings and interrupting production.

Demands

Foreign miners involved in the incidents have demanded, almost as a reflex action, to be sent back to their countries of origin — to Malawi, Lesotho, Mozambique or Botswana

This has not only affected relations between South Africa and the governments of those countries, but it has also imperilled sources of labour. Relations with Malawi are particularly strained. No recruitment has been allowed in that country for almost a year now, following the air crash in which 74 returning Malawi miners were killed

The mining industry is aware that this state of affairs must not be allowed to continue. Strikes and riots are becoming chronic. Although in most cases the police have avoided using firearms, their periodic appearance on mine property, armed with batons, tear gas, rifles, sten guns and using dogs has not contributed to the image of the mining industry as peaceful and prosperous.

For too long mine managers and "experts" have been saying they are at a loss to understand the unrest on the mines. They have put it down to irrational Black behaviour. One manager said it was "mindless".

A CID officer said: "I don't know why they are beating each other to death. Management doesn't know, and I'm damn sure they don't know themselves."

Even the Sabc Current Affairs, which usually knows "everything", admitted it was nonplussed It said "No one is able to pinpoint the reason for the current fighting on a number of gold mines between Basotho and Xhosas — neither the anthropologists, the sociologists, the employers nor the police"

Fortunately, the mining industry has not left Current Affairs to find a solution for the labour unrest that threatens to sap the industry's prosperity. It accepts now that the migrant labour system is to blame.

Of course, this in itself is not the whole answer. The migrant labour system has existed since the last century. The conditions that prevail on the gold and coal mines are not new. If anything they have improved over the years.

The question is. why have migrant labour conditions that have prevailed for so long suddenly become intolerable? The only realistic answer is that the political and economic wind of change that is blowing in Southern Africa has suddenly made the migrant labour system an anachronism.

The problem therefore is how can an essentially archaic system be modernised? How can an essentially inhuman system be "humanised"?

The migrant labour system is based on the recruitment of tribal Blacks for contract periods of about a year. During their employment on the mines they live in compounds. They are cut off from their families (and from women generally), and they live cheek-by-jowl with miners from other tribes. Only rudimentary channels of communication exist between them and mine managements Such channels are inadequate when compared with the function trade unions serve for White miners.

A vast literature has accumulated in South Africa on the evils of the migrant labour system — its disastrous effects on tribal life in the reserves, the unhappy social consequences in the cities, the disruption of family life, the waste and inefficiency implicit in a state of affairs where migrants are restricted in the skills they may acquire, and so forth.

Latterly, criticism of the migrant labour system has become more strident, as reflected in the growing concern being voiced by the churches and in the publication of two books by Dr Francis Wilson, senior lecturer in economics at the University of Cape Town — on migrant labour, and on "Labour in the South African Gold Mines, 1911-1960".

Even the Government is becoming conscience-stricken. Last week, for example, the Deputy Minister of Bantu Administration, Mr Punt Janson, announced that a "charter" of working conditions for migrant workers, drafted in consultation with them, would be published soon.

Mr Janson warned, however, that South Africa could not progress industrially without the migratory labour system The best that could be done would be to make the system work more smoothly. Mr Janson is not alone in this view.

"I make no pretence of liking the (migrant labour) system, which has serious social and economic disadvantages," said the chairman of Anglo American, Mr Harry Oppenheimer, "but there is no realistic prospect of phasing the system out in the foreseeable future".

One reason why it is impossible to phase out the migrant labour system in the gold mining industry at present is that 76 per cent of the Black miners come from foreign countries — 27 per cent from Mozambique, 29 per cent from Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland, and 20 per cent from Malawi.

Even if South Africa could absorb them as permanently settled workers — at great cost in housing and the provision of amentities — is this what they and their respective governments want?

A year ago 28 per cent of Black miners came from Malawi, but since President Banda's suspension of recruitment after the air crash, the number of Malawian miners on the gold mines has diminished steadily

Demands

Miners have been returning to Malawi on the expiry of their contracts, and are not being replaced by recruits With each successive outbreak of violence on a mine at which they have been employed the Malawians have downed tools and demanded to be repatriated.

The president of the South African Chamber of Mines, Mr A. W. S Schumann, has made urgent representations to President Banda to lift the ban on recruitment Dr Banda, however, is just sitting out the boycott — contrary to predictions that, economically, his people could not sustain it for long. In fact, Dr Banda's ruling Congress Party last year voted unanimously for the cancellation, not merely suspension, of all recruitment and exhorted young Malawians to stay at home and help build up their own country.

The Frelimo regime in Mozambique apparently has given South Africa an assurance that it will not halt the flow of Black labour to the mines Nevertheless, there are mutterings in the territory

Recently a tentative move was made to bring labour suppliers together in a united front so that they could frame a common labour policy to present to South Africa.

Basotho miners have been prominently involved in a number of the riots, and thousands have been repatriated during the past 13 months The loss of revenue would hit Lesotho harder than Malawi.

Whether there is any truth in the rumour that opponents of Chief Leabua Jonathan's Government are playing the role of activists among Basotho miners, because they are denied the rights of opposition in their own country, one simply cannot say.

This political aspect of the role activists can play not only among Basotho but also among all Black miners may add a new dimension to troubles on the mines.

The mining industry has to face the fact that the bloody tribal battles that are being fought in their compounds are only a symptom of a malaise, not the malaise itself

Black miners are now finding conditions in mine compounds claustrophobic When their frustrations spill over they take their revenge on the two most accessible targets miners from other tribal groups, and mine property.

Mining industry leaders have borne their troubles with customary fortitude, but the disturbing fact is that the gold mining industry is down to about 76 per cent of its labour complement This is very worrying.

Gold is too important for either the industry or the Government to allow its production to be seriously threatened. Gold accounted for 43 per cent of South Africa's exports last year.

Mr Janson's "charter" possibly will relax the migrant labour rules. He could allow the mining industry to accommodate a much bigger permanent, skilled labour force in family-type housing.

De Beers are already abolishing migratory labour on their diamond mine in Kimberley, and are recruiting local Africans.

The migrant labour problem on the gold mines however, is almost insoluble in the short term. The insuperable obstacle is that 76 per cent of the Black miners are foreigners.

To attract Black South Africans back into the mining industry would not be the answer in itself. They would also have to be settled on a permanent basis

This could diminish the reservoir of Black workers available to farmers, who may then find themselves competing for labour vigorously and possibly unsuccessfully with the mining industry.

Forbidding

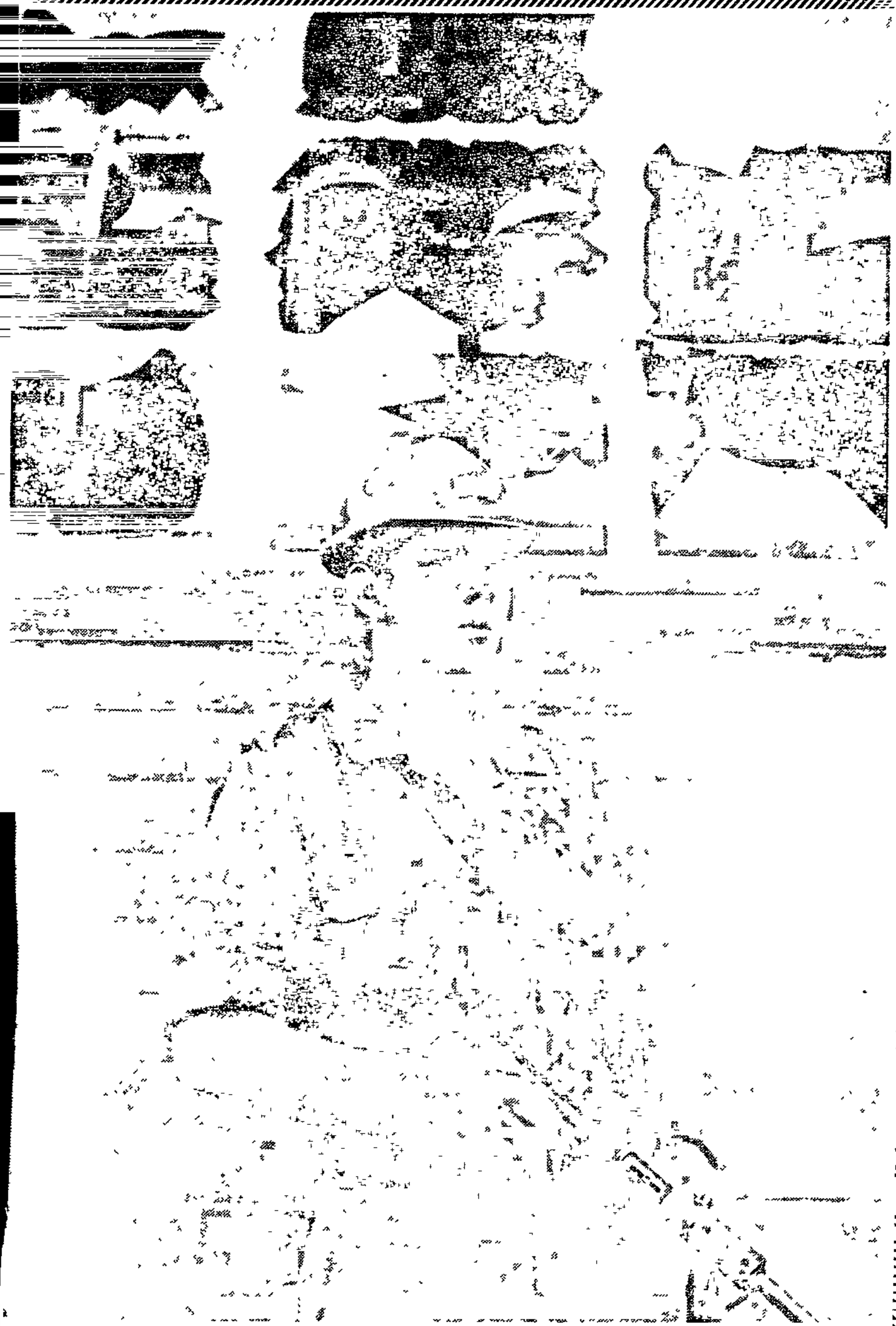
The problem is a forbidding one Only a radical restructuring of the mining industry's labour force will eliminate the causes of strikes and riots. Higher wages and settled living conditions are key factors, but mine owners will want increased productivity in return for these changes. This in turn will mean opening more skilled jobs to Black miners

A whole new society will have to be created. Black migrants, quite abruptly, have lost their innocence, and they want a lot more out of life than the migrant labour system can offer them.

No doubt, the recent Black wage revolution in South Africa and the rise of Frelimo in Mozambique have inspired this new climate of rising expectations, which really is at the heart of the unrest on the mines.

Is the mining industry too embedded in the system of cheap migrant labour to bring about reform? The future of South Africa's most valuable industry depends on the answer to this question.

CONT



Aftermath of unrest: mine security police keep watch from a damaged mine building.

I DON'T KNOW why they are beating each other to death, management does not know and I'm sure they don't know themselves.

These words of a puzzled CID officer during the violent confrontations in the compounds of the Free State gold mines a year ago re-echoed round South Africa this week following the violence at Northfield Colliery last weekend.

Press reports say at least 30 Black miners were killed in 24 hours of fighting.

It all seems so irrational Why should mineworkers suddenly take leave of their senses?

The table shows that the Northfield riot was not an isolated event. Since 11 men were shot dead by police at Carletonville in September 1973 clashes involving mineworkers have caused no less than 132 men to be killed and at least 500 injured

SUNDAY TRIBUNE 9/3/75

By
DR FRANCIS WILSON
of the University of Cape Town, author of The Economics of Labour on the South African Gold Mines

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Extent of unrest

The table also shows the extent of the unrest which has involved 19 different mines (some several times) producing gold, coal, platinum and copper in all four provinces. Nor has it been confined, as many people seem to think, to ethnic tension between Sotho and Xhosa-speaking miners.

Violence has been sparked off by disputes over wages, soccer scores, exchange rates, women and the truculence bred by drink. And the miners have also included men from Botswana, Malawi and Mozambique.

Police, presumably Black and White, have killed and been killed in the confrontations.

This violence has not been the only sign of unrest The gold mining industry is working with less than three quarters of its labour requirements, not only because Dr Banda halted all recruiting in April, 1974, but also because large groups of Malawian miners have insisted on going home before their contracts expired.

Another manifestation of worker unrest is the strikes in all the four provinces, primarily in secondary industry, since the first wave hit Durban just over two years ago.

Precise figures of strikes are not available but some idea of their extent may be gauged from the fact that during the first three months of 1973 there were an estimated 160 strikes or stoppages at 146 different establishments involving more than 60 000 workers.

Wage increases were granted in 118 cases (Institute of Race Relations annual survey 1973. Page 284) In the last six months of 1974 there were, according to the Ministers of Mines and of Police 135 strikes (including some on mines) of which 125 were caused by wage demands

Compound violence

The police were called in to 69 of the strikes and 841 workers were arrested and charged (Hansard February 10 1975 columns 204-210).

If we seek to understand what lies behind the compound violence it would perhaps be helpful to list the reasons that have been put forward.

They include:

* Drink-boredom: It is notable that many of the worst clashes have started at weekends

* Competitions: Too women, particularly on the Free State mines

★ Competition for women, particularly in the Free State, where Sotho-speaking miners may claim all the women for themselves

★ Ethnic tension, primarily, though not exclusively, between Xhosa and Basotho

★ Inadequate channels of communication between workers and management, both down and up.

★ Lack of proper consultation with workers both by management and by Governments.

★ Dissatisfaction over earnings

★ Insecurity over jobs. This may be particularly true of Basotho who are losing jobs in Kimberley they have had for more than 100 years and who may fear being replaced in the rest of the mining industry by other Blacks who are considered less "foreign".

★ Agitators are seen by some, generally White, to be a major factor.

Sociologically explosive

★ Unnaturalness of compound life. Herding hundreds or thousands of men together in vast single-sex hostels with no privacy and with no women or children is sociologically explosive.

★ Powerlessness. A reading of history suggests that last weekend's outburst should be seen more as a cry of frustrated rage than anything else.

As one runs through this list seeking to pinpoint the cause, it seems to me that to point to drinking squabbles, agitators or even to ethnic tension is no more helpful than saying that World War I was caused by the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand It is not the sparks that should concern us so much as the social dynamite.

Ethnic Tension

This can be illustrated most clearly, perhaps, if we consider for a moment the question of ethnic tension. It is true that antagonism between Xhosa and Basotho has deep historical roots, but it is also true that in hundreds of thousands of instances Xhosa and Basotho get along well together and that there are many happy intermarriages.

Ethnic tension, which is by no means confined to Blacks, can be creative as well as destructive and we need to ponder the conditions which give rise to one or the other.

If Welsh and Scots or English and Afrikaner were housed in the compounds of our mining industry, would they, too, not start fighting each other?

But compounds are part of our traditional way of life and for 80 years or more were peaceful places.

Why did the violence not occur before? We do not know.

But it does seem that, in some mysterious way, the breaking point has now been reached.

This is probably not unconnected with the rising expectations of Black industrial workers who have sought to lighten their feelings of frustration and helplessness in a society that seems unable to change to meet the human aspirations of so many of those living in it.

Thus, paradoxically, it would seem as though the events of the past two years or so, including the Durban strikes, the independence of Mozambique, the raising of wages in the mining industry, external detente, and other events have served to create a mood of expectation combined with a feeling of hopeless frustration.

This is a dangerous enough mixture at the best of times but in a social structure as brittle as South Africa's migrant labour one it is explosive.

Is this Black mood something that will pass so that White South Africans may look forward once again to battening down the hatches and controlling labour units in the compounds? It is impossible to predict events with any certainty but it does seem as though this new restlessness is irreversible. Once it has happened there is no going back.

No longer viable

Where then do we go from here?

The first step surely is to face reality and recognise that our present labour system is no longer viable. If there is one fundamental cause [illegible] it lies [illegible] White attitude [illegible] Blacks, not [illegible] workers, but as [illegible] labour units or at best as children.

A feeling of belonging, participation in decisions that affect them and a decent family life are fundamental prerequisites of social stability.

In the past 18 months warning signals of the acute danger of trying to maintain a compound society have been emitted with increasing frequency.

Desperately worried

To put it in a nutshell: Can we Whites, who have spent so many years creating labour batteries instead of industrial communities to accumulate our wealth at a minimum cost, now really be surprised as we witness chickens coming home to roost?

South Africans have every reason to be desperately worried at the events of last weekend. For why should the violence stop there? What of the monstrous single-sex complex being built in Johannesburg's Alexandra Township?

What of Durban's hostels and compounds housing 70 000 men or more? What of Langa in Cape Town where the male-female ratio is of the order of 12:1?

There is not space in a brief article to deal adequately with the arguments put forward as to why the migrant labour system [illegible] of trying to maintain the existing pattern.

The hard fact is that the destruction of family life and the growth of massive single-sex hostels in the urban areas, with a corresponding lack of all those daily relationships between husband and wives, fathers and sons, children and their grandparents, cousins and aunts, which weld human communities together, makes a society far more susceptible to being torn apart in times of crisis

Indeed we would argue that the lack of these bonds makes a society far less human, far more explosive and hence, even from the narrow perspective of White political survival, much more dangerous.

For the future well-being of the country, an alternative arrangement whereby these human relationships may be encouraged to grow strongly is common sense.

The tragic events at Northfield Colliery should be interpreted, I would submit, as a deadly serious warning that South Africa's migrant labour system is no longer viable.

Breaking point

We have reached the breaking point and to refuse to face this fact is to court disaster. Politically, the system is unacceptable

"The thing that [illegible] Africans [illegible] for some [illegible] semi-slavery [illegible] which [illegible] racial group under influx control regulations", wrote Chief Gatsha Buthelezi two weeks ago.

It is sociologically explosive. It is economically inefficient as more and more industrialists are coming to realise.

Migrants' challenge

It is administratively untenable, as senior civil servants who work in the townships are willing to admit off the record But above all it is being challenged by the migrants themselves, both implicitly as in last Sunday's riots and explicitly as at a recent workshop on migrant labour held at the University of Cape Town, where migrants themselves were asked their views of the system.

One said: "Migrant labour and a jail term are not very different because even in our residences we can hardly sleep because of relentless raids by police. All this therefore means that the day you are fortunate enough to get a contract your life as a convict has begun."

The migrant labour system in its present compulsory form must go. In our heart of hearts we are conscious of this.

South Africa has the resources to change (the rise in the price of gold gives us an opportunity which may never recur).

We have the knowledge. Do we have the wisdom?

QUOTE

By Dr Alex Boraine, Progressive Party MP and labour adviser to Anglo American

Dr Koornhof's inter-departmental committee of inquiry into the causes of mine unrest is wholly insufficient.

No committee consisting of civil servants or people with vested interests will ever be able to get to the bottom of this problem which has escalated.

The problem is so complex that we need a committee with adequate qualifications such as industrial psychologists, sociologists and directly represented managements and workers.

Individual mining houses have conducted several commissions of inquiry into violence on various mines in the past. These inquiries have certainly not been decisive and the biggest tragedy is that after two years of such inquiries a very nasty flare-up occurred again last weekend.

What is required now is an in-depth inquiry which has got to

transcend the Chamber of Mines, the individual mining houses, the Government and its civil servants. By all means, they are entitled to some representation, but above all an exhaustive independent inquiry is absolutely necessary now.

An independent inquiry would reveal that a radical restructuring of the labour system is essential.

Overcrowded living conditions in the mine hostels with labourers being separated from their families for long periods has led to intolerable friction and aggression and we are now sitting on a powder keg. The sooner we defuse this situation, the better.

DATE	PLACE	DEAD	INJURED	COMMENTS
Sept. 11 1973	Western Deep Levels	12	27	Wage dispute. Eleven shot dead by police
Oct. 20	Durnacoal Colliery	10	18	Basotho and Xhosa clashes. About 450 Basotho repatriated
Feb. 3 1974	ERPM (Boksburg)	—	NA	Coloured - African soccer match
Feb. 9	Welkom Gold Mine	9	100	Basotho and Xhosa clashes. About 3 650 Basotho repatriated
Feb. 16	Western Holdings Free State Geduld	15	87	Basotho and Xhosa clashes. About 4 500 Basotho and 500 Xhosa sent home
April 14	Western Deep Levels	3	30	Basotho repatriated
April 16	Western Deep Levels	7	33	Basotho repatriated. Malawians ask to be repatriated
May 28	Loraine Gold Mine	2	6	———
June 9	Harmony Gold Mine	4	19	Wage dispute
June 11	Merriespruit Gold Mine	1	18	———
June 25	Rassano Garcia	7	6	Rand - escudo exchange rate dispute
August 31	Western Holdings	3	NA	———
Sept. 29	Western Platinum	2	4	Police fire on rioting workers
Oct. 13	ERPM	1	—	Botswana miner killed. About 200 Mozambiquans repatriated. Malawians asked to go. Strike involving 1 500. Teargas and dogs used
Oct. 21	Western Deep Levels	1	—	Malawian stabbed. Riot and strike. Malawians ask to be sent home.
Oct. 23	Hartebeesfontein	2	4	Wage dispute. Riot, with teargas, dogs and batons. Strike involving 2 750
Nov. 13	West Rand Consolidated	—	—	Malawians strike and ask to be repatriated
Nov. 17	Western Deep Levels	1	15	Riot. Mozambique miner killed
Dec. 16	Impala Platinum	4	78	———
Dec. 29	Prieska Copper	3	35	Xhosa and Tswana clashes
Jan. 5 1975	Vaal Reefs	2	5	Lesotho Government demands 60 per cent of earnings goes to Lesotho
Jan. 19	Vaal Reefs and two collieries	10	NA	———
March 1	Northfield Colliery	30	NA	Basotho and Xhosa clashes. Basotho repatriated
March 2	Hlobane Colliery	1	4	Basotho and Xhosa clashes
March 3	Western Deep Levels	2	7	———

September 1973 to March 1975: 132 dead and 496 injured

Sources: Daily Press, weekly Press, annual surveys of the Institute of Race Relations.

NA — not available

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Sunday Times

THE PAPER FOR THE PEOPLE

Frightful phenomenon

THE CASE FOR A FULL-SCALE public inquiry into the causes of the recent savage mine riots grows steadily stronger.

It can no longer be pretended that these are merely a continuation of the comparatively mild weekend faction fighting which has been endemic on the mines over the years. Something much more serious is happening. A death toll of nearly 30 on one mine in one night, with mutilations and probably torture, indicates an intolerable state of affairs.

Another new factor is the demand for wholesale repatriation which now so often follows these outbreaks of violence. After the rioting at two collieries in Glencoe a week ago 500 workers, perhaps understandably, asked to be sent home. This in itself causes widespread disruption on the mines, quite apart from the casualties in the actual fighting and the senseless destruction of property.

There is a bewildering variety of opinions on the reasons for this fighting and the possible ways of stopping it.

Mr Grobbelaar, general secretary of Tucsa, blames the mines for adopting the policy of "divide and rule" and mixing ethnic groups in the labour force in a way that can only lead to hatred and violence. If it is any consolation to him, the propaganda machine of the Sabc did not hesitate to jump in and exploit the tragedy for its own party purposes, pointing out that violence must be expected when the precepts of separatism are ignored.

On the other hand the general manager of the Mines Labour Organisation, Mr Fleischer, says that if the labour on a mine is restricted to one group, then a strike can become total and the mine has no labour at all. The Chamber of Mines says that rioting is a matter for individual management, and managements say it is a matter for the Chamber.

In a carefully reasoned article on the opposite page, Stanley Uys suggests that the migrant labour system may be at the root of the problem. This is the view we endorse; but whatever the reason, the Government's approach to the problem is disquieting. With its usual passion for secrecy, it wants an inter-departmental inquiry, held behind closed doors; and the Minister of Mines, Dr Koornhof, has even suggested that the findings be kept secret.

This hardly seems the right way to elicit the truth and, above all, to reveal it. The inquiry, to start with, should be open. Nor should it be chiefly concerned with the immediate cause of each savage outburst. What is required is a searching inquiry into the sociological, political and economic reasons behind the troubles. It should be a wide-ranging inquiry, conducted by experts, who call upon other experts in relevant fields to testify. Only in that way will we really get to the bottom of this frightful phenomenon.

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Tucsa Evidence To Mine Riot Enquiry

TUCSA has been officially asked to submit a memorandum containing its views and suggestions to the Inter-departmental Committee of Inquiry into the Recent Disturbances on the Mines.

AT the time when the mine disturbances occurred, TUCSA expressed certain views of organised labour, applying in its assessment the experience of a trade union movement of many decades in South Africa.

TUCSA's Officers' Committee have entrusted the Secretariat with the compilation of a report on this matter

PAGE 2

TUCSA - LABOUR MIRROR
APRIL 1975

UN team blames SA for deaths

RDM 1/3/75

NEW YORK. — A six-man UN Commission of Inquiry yesterday blamed South Africa and Western Deep Levels gold mine for the police shooting of 11 African workers at the Carletonville mine last year.

It recommended that they "pay damages to the relatives of the victims, to the Lesotho General Workers' Union and to Lesotho," reports Sapa

Mining and government organisations in South Africa yesterday refused to comment on the UN group's report, reports a Rand Daily Mail staff reporter.

A spokesman for Anglo-American said the corporation could not give its view on the recommendations until it had seen and studied the full report.

A Chamber of Mines official said the incident had occurred at an Anglo-American mine, and it would be up to Anglo-American to decide how to react to the report.

A spokesman for the Minister of Labour, Mr Marais Viljoen, said the matter was exclusively in the sphere of the Department of Mines The Minister of Mines, Dr Piet Koornhof, was not available for comment.

In a 76-page report to the Economic and Social Council, the so-called ad hoc working group of experts pointed out that five of those shot to death were Lesotho nationals, says Sapa

The group said the police "opened fire on defenceless workers" when called in by management "on the pretext of a workers' 'movement' which was in fact nothing more than a non-violent attempt to secure the fulfilment of promises previously made to them" South Africa has said a quarrel among the workers themselves led to the police intervention

Trade unions should "use trade union rights", it said, to dissuade employers from "any support of the South African economy".

It said pressure on South Africa to right a disparity between the wages of Blacks and Whites should be started "by some countries which are sympathetic to African aspirations but still have commercial relations with South Africa.

"States should forbid their nationals to work in South Africa," the report said, "as long as South Africa does not bring its social and labour system into conformity with recognised standards of social rights"

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at price P′. The lower price P′
will be compelled to sell at this
till make a profit at the lower
ventually be compelled to cease
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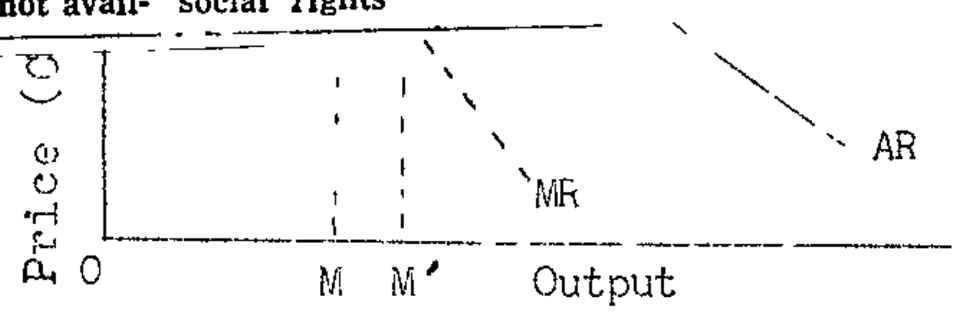
that under perfect oligopoly the
h equates marginal cost and marginal
st curves are identical, or at the
marginal revenue for the most
e-leader', setting a price to which
price must be one which allows all
t normal profits.



2. PRICE LEADERSHIP - in Oligopoly - Assume DOMINANT FIRM

Assumptions here are that other firms accept this Dominant firm as Price Leader and become themselves Price Takers, as in pure competition.

In the following diagram D is the market demand curve for the product. Since each small firm accepts the price as established by the dominant firm, we can establish a short-run supply curve for the small firms just as we did in the purely competitive model. We can sum horizontally the marginal cost curves of the small firms (assume that input supplies are perfectly elastic). This is indicated by ZWC in the figure and is a short-run supply curve showing how much all the small firms, working together, will place on the market at each possible price.

29 STERF, 14 BESEER.

in gevegte by myn

Bru 3/3/75

Van Ons Spesiale Verteenwoordiger

GLENCOE.

'N WOORDEWISSELING by 'n sokkerwedstryd Saterdag hier by die steenkoolmyn Northfield het gelei tot 'n bloedige stamgeveg tussen Kôsas en Basoeto's waarin 29 mans dood en 14 beseer is.

Die polisie is anderhalfuur nadat die geveg begin het, ontbied en versterkings is dadelik laat kom, maar dit was te laat om die mense te keer.

Deur die nag het die bakleiery voortgeduur en in die proses is die administrasiegebou aan die brand gesteek, slaapsale afgebrand en geplunder en vensters gebreek.

Gisteroggend met dagbreek eers kon die polisie die vegtendes in bedwang kry en die mynwerkers oorreed om gewondes uit te lewer en die lyke te laat wegry na die dodehuis op Dundee

Die Basoeto's het gevra om dadelik teruggestuur te word Lesotho toe. Om tienuur het 'n trein gereed gestaan. Die mynwerkers moes egter eers uitbetaal word, maar die probleem was dat die loonstate uitgebrand het. Amptenare het toe self besluit wat 'n billike uitbetaling sou wees, en gisteraand is die trein weg.

V.V.O.

Die jongste stamgeveg kom in 'n stadium dat die V.V.O. hom reeds hieroor probeer inmeng het Die Regering het ook begin stappe doen oor die trekarbeidstelsel, wat een van die oorsake kan wees.

Die bloeddorstigheid het gisteroggend nog geblyk. Lyke met afgesnyde kele het rondgelê Ander se koppe was vergruis, terwyl party aan stukke gekap was

Die gevegte tussen die 359 Basoeto's en 836 Kôsas het Saterdagmiddag by 'n sokkerwedstryd begin. 'n Man is met 'n mes doodgesteek

Skielik is met messe, knopkieries en klippe ingespring. Die meeste is net daar doodgeslaan Ses is voor die hek van die kampong vermoor, en vyf het in die hospitaal beswyk.

Stilstand

Nadat die polisie al was, is die hoof-administrasiegebou aan die brand gesteek Die polisie het toe die brandslang gebruik die groepe voor die kamp uitmekaar te hou.

Die myn het tot stilstand gekom Die bestuur kom kry aan

Hy ontvang so baie telefoon lui aanbou-wanduitnodigings. "Ons lewe is een lang soos ...d." Het mnr Goss se gesin ... Hy wil weet of die ... is ... Vrydag uit die ... Hospitaal in ... is. ... Bosoeto ... Hy ... familie en vriende ... maar min kans is ...

(Homogenuity ensures single price.)

Here the result can be the "Ideal" M
the Industry (same as Pure Duopoly)

A Market-sharing Cartel need not sha
firms may receive larger shares than
be accomplished on a regional basis.
result of different demand elasticit
costs, inferior territories, encroac
all of which make pricing and output

4. NON-COLLUSIVE, UNORGANISED OLIGOPOL

Theory of the kinked oligopoly demar

Explanation of Price Rigidity. (See

OLIGOPOLY BEHAVIOUR seen as A GAME

(compare chess, or international dip
negotiations). (Taken from Dorfman

Such a situation, in which thor
conflicting interests, each of whom
attainments of the others as well as
"a game of strategy" - or, for short,
board exercises are one sort of game
diplomacy, labour-management negotia
quite another sort, but subject to
methods.) The crucial feature of
bases his decisions on what he expe
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thinks the others think he expects them to do, and so on. Can

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Van Ons Korrespondent
JOHANNESBURG

DIE regering is vasbeslote om die sinnelose bloedvergieting deur swart mynwerkers te voorkom 'n Interdepartementele komitee gaan gestig word om die oorsake van die onluste te bepaal en maatreels aan te beveel om dit te voorkom, luidens 'n verklaring deur min Piet Koornhof Minister van Mynwese

Dr Koornhof se verklaring volg op die bloedbad die naweek by die Northfield-steenkoolmyn by Glencoe, Natal, waar die dodetal nou op 32 staan

Intussen het hernude stamgevegte gisteraand by die Western Deep Levels-goudmyn buite Carletonville uitgebreek nadat die polisie Sondagaand daarin geslaag het om 5 000 swartes betyds uiteen te dryf

In die nuutste gevegte is twee swart werkers dood en sewe beseer Die polisie moes weer ingryp ná 'n bakleiery van bykans 'n uur voor die kampong van skag nr 3

Polisiemanne moes deur die nag 'n wakende oog hou by die myn waar elf werkers op 11 September 1973 tydens 'n oproer doodgeskiet is

By General Mining se twee myne in Noord-Natal, wat die naweek deur onluste geteister was, was dit gisteraand laat nog stil By die Northfield-myn het slegs sowat 300 van die 1 555 werkers gister hul werk hervat Die myn se produksie is kwaai geknou

Van die 359 Sotho's by die myn het geeneen oorgebly nie Sowat 300 is op eie versoek na Lesotho terug en die res het blykbaar gevlug

Daily

Cape Times Correspondent 3/3/75

GLENCOE. — At least 29 Black mineworkers were killed at the weekend when a bloody battle between Xhosa and Basuto factions raged for 12 hours at the Northfield Colliery near Dundee.

Hordes of rampaging miners wrecked and set fire to buildings and left the mine compound strewn with bodies of the dead and dying when police moved in early yesterday morning.

Some of the dead and injured had been tortured, according to mine officials Fourteen men were admitted to Dundee Hospital yesterday morning.

The police did not open fire or use tear gas at any stage. Preliminary inquiries indicate that the riot arose from a squabble between a few miners about 5pm while most of the mine's 1 500 workers were attending a football match away from the hostel.

Kraals looted

The quarrel ended in one man being stabbed to death. Basutos then took over control of the hostel gates, according to the mines spokesman, and either stopped other workers from entering when they returned from the match, or accosted and killed them. Six men were killed at this stage.

During the day yesterday gangs of marauding workers, believed to be Xhosas, scoured the surrounding countryside raiding farm kraals and searching for members of rival factions

Kraals were looted and at least one man was found hacked to death on the farm of Mr H O Boucher, less than a kilometre from the compound. It is feared however, that more bodies will be found in the surrounding veld

The mine employs 800 Xhosas and 400 migrant Basuto labourers. Mine officials have estimated that the fighting will cost the General Mining Corporation, owners of the mine, R500 000 in damage and lost production. All work at the mine has been stopped until officials can restore order.

JOHANNESBURG.— A tense situation involving 5 000 Black miners at the Western Deep Levels gold mine was defused last night by a strong force of police using tear-gas.

It is understood that the trouble began after a Basuto faction had allowed about 40 Xhosas into the compound. The gates were closed and fighting broke out.

Enraged Basuto workers then broke into the compound and a raging battle carried on through the night. Workers were armed with kieries, axes, pangas and stones and many of the victims were badly mutilated.

White mine officials were left untouched as they watched helplessly. Police were called and arrived armed with tear gas and riot equipment.

Soon after the fighting had died down yesterday, police entered the compound and separated the factions Mine officials moved in with buses and evacuated 350 Basutos.

By late yesterday they were waiting at Wasbank railway station to be repatriated

A spokesman for the mine group said that the fighting was "outright barbarism".

"I have never witnessed such mutilation and violence in all my life," he said.

Inquiry

Mr Kruger, the Minister of Justice and Police, said last night that a local inquiry into the fight was under way.

Confirming that 400 Basutos were on their way back after asking for repatriation, he said that police reports indicated that the battle was a straight faction fight between Basutos and Xhosas

Police who were rushed to the scene had nothing to do with any of the deaths, the Minister said

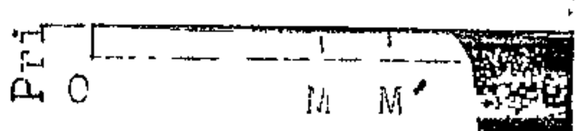
A second riot in which one Basuto was killed broke out at General Mining's Hlobane Colliery, about 80 km from Northfield yesterday afternoon.

In a statement in Johannesburg last night General Mining said that a group of some 50 Basuto employees of the colliery living on surrounding farms, approached the number three compound of the mine which houses about 500 Basuto and 900 Xhosa workers.

A fight erupted in which one Basuto was killed. Four more people were injured, of whom two had been admitted to Vryheid Hospital.

Two tear-gas cannisters were released in the hostel to quell the disturbance and a force of 25 policemen, 14 White and 11 Black, were on standby at the mine

● Picture, page 3.



2. PRICE LEADERSHIP - in Oligopo

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supplies are perfectly elastic). This is indicated by ZMC in the
figure and is a short-run supply curve showing how much all the small
firms, working together, will place on the market at each possible price.

370 mine men want to quit

argus 4/3/75

ADYSMITH. — Glencoe's Northfield ...illery and the Hlobane Colliery, near Vry-...d, where bloody riots resulted in the ...th of 31 men at the weekend, were today ...ported to be facing a repatriation of 350 ...otho workers from the former and a ...quest for repatriation by 520 Malawians ...d Basothos at Hlobane.

...ne officials at both ...lieries have refused to ...ment on the situation ...Police in both districts ...e keeping a careful ...tch on the collieries, but ...y do not expect any ...her rioting.

Investigations into the ...ath of the men has ...egun, but police declined ...o comment on whether ...ny arrests had been made ...r charges laid.

Meanwhile, at Carlton-...ille last night two mine-...orkers were killed and ...ven injured in an inter-...bal fight which deve-...ped in a section of the ...3 hostel at Western ...Deep Levels, a spokesman ...the Anglo American ...l mine said

After a tense day at the ...e following the murder ...a Xhosa and the arrest ...a man from Botswana, a ...arge group of mine-...orkers was seen moving ...ards the Xhosa quar-... about 7.15 pm.

FIGHT

...fierce fight soon de-...oped, and the police ...called in Teargas ...used to disperse the ...h, and, according to a ...spokesman, all was ...by about 8 15.

...e general manager of ...mine, Mr T Brierton, ...there would be a ...investigation into the ...er today.

...Cape Town last night ...Minister of Mines, Dr ...G. J. Koornhof, said ...in addition to statu-...inquests into the ...at the Northfield ...y, there would also ...interdepartmental

...Koornhof expressed ...Government's sym-...with the families of ...dead - and said ...ing to reports that ...reached me, the ...African Police and ...ficials did every-

both increase prices. But
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000 if your opponent stood pat.
hich you would not increase your
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ingredient of life in an oligopoly;
vals. In practice, the games
icated. Each firm may have to
confreres rather than only one,
a range of alternatives with respect to prices,
merchandising policy, and many other things, instead
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it impossible to write down a sure-fire matrix, as we

All is quiet at death-clash mines

The Argus Correspondent 3/3/75

DURBAN. — Quiet has returned to the 'battlefields' at two northern Natal collieries where at least 29 African mine workers were butchered in separate faction clashes at the weekend.

And an urgent call for Government action to get to find a solution to disruptive faction fighting among mineworkers was made today by the United Party's spokesman on labour, Dr Gideon Jacobs, MP.

In one of the most violent encounters at a Natal mine, 28 men were butchered in a fight between Xhosa and Basuto workers at the Northfield-Colliery at Glencoe on Saturday night which also left scores injured.

Last night fighting broke out at the Hlobane Colliery near Vryheid, in which one worker was killed and four injured

Today Dr Jacobs called on the Government to institute immediately a 'searching' inquiry 'Everybody will support it,' Dr Jacobs said

The Minister of Mines, Dr Koornhof, who rejected an inquiry only a week ago when Dr Jacobs moved a private members' motion in the Assembly on similar lines, was not immediately availat comment.

Serious

The new outbreak of mine violence, Dr Jacobs said today, was a most serious development It fully vindicated the request made in his motion, which had been supported by the Progressive Party

Police today reported an 'all quiet' at the two mines as mine officials made arrangements for repairs to be made to the badly damaged mine buildings and dormitories.

Three hundred Basutos from the Northfield mine have been sent home to Lesotho at their own request and today 328 of the 800 Basutos at the No 1 mine at Hlobane have asked to be sent home

A spokesman for the public relations department of General Mining in Johannesburg, Mr D J Ackermann, said today all was quiet at both mines and that production at Hlobane was almost back to normal.

The No 2 mine at Hlobane had not been affected by the fighting at all

At Northfield, essential services have been restored and some men were underground today, he said However, any production would be minimal

The official fatality figures for Northfield still stood at 28 dead though investigations were continuing by mine officials in case there were further victims

According to Mr Ackermann the man killed at Hlobane last night was a Basuto who had not been killed by the opposing forces but had been stabbed to death by members of his own group who he had tried to prevent from starting a fight with the Xhosas

At this mine there were 14 who had been injured Only one was seriously hurt.

No further unrest was expected at either mine and police were still standing by at Hlobane.

unrest now, says Jacobs

Staff Reporter 3/3/75

THE Glencoe riots proved again the need for a commission of inquiry into mine labour — which should be instituted whether the Chamber of Mines like it or not, the United Party MP for Hillbrow, Dr Gideon Jacobs, said yesterday.

"There are obviously latent hostilities on the mines. It is vital that we find out what is behind them. It is not impossible that riots are engineered by outside influences — South Africa is far more vulnerable to mine labour upsets than to terrorist activity on our borders.

"Every effort must be made to pinpoint causes. It is no use being complacent, as the Minister of Justice has been. When I called for an inquiry in the House last week, he said only that the Chamber of Mines didn't fancy an inquiry.

"Obviously the chamber doesn't want to be investigated Nobody would. Nusas didn't want an inquiry, but that didn't stop the Government.

"The situation is serious If the Chamber of Mines doesn't want an inquiry, the Government must overrule it."

A spokesman for the chamber refused to comment on Dr Jacobs' proposals

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213

Now SA miners ask to go home

RDM 5.3.75 Labour - gold mines

Labour Correspondent

A NEW dimension was added to the renewed outburst of mine labour strife yesterday with demands by Xhosa and Shangaan workers to be sent home.

Since the strikes and riots began in April last year, it has been almost exclusively Basothos and Malawians who insisted on repatriation.

Yesterday, an indefinite number of Xhosas and Shangaans at Northfield Colliery in Natal, where 31 Africans died in riots on Saturday night, asked to cancel their contracts, a mine spokesman

At the nearby Hlobane Colliery, which endured a smaller weekend riot, 800 Basotho are being sent home at their own request. Malawians have also asked for repatriation, as have 40 Shangaans, who wish to return to Mozambique

At Western Deep Levels gold mine near Carletonville, 1 100 of the 5 000 African mineworkers were onsstrike yesterday. A mine spokesman said the strikers were mainly concerned about security arrangements following Monday's riot.

Production at Northfield is at 2 5per cent. Mine officials expect it may take months before the mine is back to full output.

Mr Tony Fleischer, general manager of the Mines Labour Organisation, said last night that to populate mines with men of one tribe only could mean that if there was a strike it would be a total strike.

He said the MLO is to establish a permanent bureau, with Black staff to develop liaison between governments, mine managements and Black mineworkers.

Western Deep Levels, Mr E. C. W. Brereton, said yesterdayworkers had told him they refused to work because they "felt insecure"

HANSARD 5 Q. column 415-416

7 March 1975

213

Fighting at Northfield Colliery

415 Mr M L MITCHELL asked the Minister of Police

(1) Whether the South African Police were notified of the fighting at Northfield Colliery near Dundee, Natal, on Saturday, 1 March 1975, if so, at what time

(2) (a) when did members of the Force first arrive there and (b) how many arrived,

(3) whether the fighting was subdued immediately after the arrival of the Force, if not, (a) why not and (b) when was the fighting finally subdued

(4) (a) how many miners (i) died and (ii) were injured as a result of the incident and (b) what casualties were suffered by the South African Police

The MINISTER OF POLICE

(1) Yes, at 5 15 p m

(2) (a) At approximately 5 30 p m

(b) 2

(3) No

(a) Because it was impossible for the two policemen and the mining officials to subdue the fighting Reinforcements were, however called for

(b) After the arrival of reinforcements at 6 20 p m

(4) (a) (i) 31

(ii) 13

(b) None

I should like to add that when the police were informed of the trouble at the mine they were given no indication of the seriousness or extent of the fighting According to information available, it would appear that most of the deceased were murdered before the Police arrived at the mine at approximately 5 30 p m

STAR 17/4/75

Death in mine riot

A man was killed before security police with dogs could break up a battle between Xhosa and Basotho miners.

Another man was seriously injured.

The fight, involving about 300 men was at Blyvooruitzicht gold mine, Carletonville, this week

A spokesman for Rand Mines said the battle resulted from "one of those strange things when a Xhosa and a Mosotho have a fight and, instead of leaving it at that, fetch their pals along.

"There were about 150 men on each side but fortunately the mine security police had been warned and they soon broke it up".

According to reports the battle lasted for about 15 minutes with the Basotho attacking the Xhosa dormitories.

Mine police remained on the alert yesterday but the trouble did not recur.

The South African Police were not called in

J13

RDM 17/4/75

213

Miner dies in tribal fighting

Staff Reporter

ONE AFRICAN mine-worker died and another was seriously injured when trouble broke out at the Blyvooruitzicht Gold Mine, Carletonville, last week.

Trouble flared on a Basotho hostel. Mine security police with dogs remained on the compound throughout yesterday and last night, but the mine was quiet and officials reported that production had not been seriously affected.

Major C S Dryer, Carletonville's police chief, went to the mine when fighting started, but decided it was not necessary to call in SAP members to help the mine police.

Mr Donald Waterman, managing director of Blyvooruitzicht, said the trouble began when a Mosotho mine worker quarrelled with a member of the mine No 1 shaft compound over ownership of a cap.

The Mosotho was later stabbed. Mr Waterman said about 150 Basotho then attacked the Xhosa dormitories.

During the 15-minute fight, a Baca tribesman was hit over the head and injured.

Police with sticks quickly stopped the fighting. The Xhosa original involved in the argument and the stabbed Mosotho's brother were arrested.

REFUSED

Mr Waterman said nine hostels were slightly damaged, and six of the workers treated for minor injuries.

The stabbed Mosotho was in a satisfactory condition in hospital.

Mr Waterman said 30 of the mine workers refused to go underground yesterday, but the rest of the workforce went to work.

The Divisional Commissioner of Police for the Western Transvaal, Brigadier H H Benade, said last night the mine had the situation under control.

A police officer sat at the mine standing by with mine police.

Blyvooruitzicht, owned by Rand Mines, employs about [illegible] African [illegible]

RDM 26/4/75

Malawi miners go home after fight

Labour Correspondent

GENERAL MINING has repatriated 250 Malawian mineworkers from its Coretsi mine, near Kuruman, after the first mine labour unrest to be made public for nearly two months.

A general mining spokesman said yesterday the trouble started with a fight between two African mineworkers. Supporters gathered on either side and the police were called in.

Order was restored without any injuries, but on Monday the Malawians moved out of the hostel, refused to work and demanded to be sent home

After discussions with mine management and Malawi Government representatives, some of the workers returned to work.

Mining spokesmen last night regretted the break in the long period of peace which followed the rash of demands by Malawians to be sent home around December and January.

There are still 50 000 Malawians on South Africa's mines — about half the number there were before recruiting was stopped a year ago.

"There has been no sign of nervousness or sense of isolation for a long time," a Chamber of Mines spokesman said. "The wild rumours that people would never be allowed to go home have stopped.

"It helped a lot bringing Malawian leaders to speak to the miners, and the Chamber and mining groups have been making a concerted effort to get correct information across to the Black workers."

Many mining men consider it likely, however, that Malawian fears will build up as the number of men concluding their contracts reduces the total Malawian complement further and further.

Not only will the sense of isolation increase among the workers still remaining, but they will be increasingly aware that the later they get back to Malawi, the lower they will enter the queue for jobs there.

The last workers should finish their contracts early next year.

213

Miners cleared in riot case

RDM 8/5/75

Staff Reporter

WELKOM — Eight African miners were found not guilty in the Welkom Regional Court yesterday on charges of public violence arising from riots at the President Brand gold mine.

The magistrate, Mr C. P. J Stytler, said the witnesses were in doubt when trying to identify the miners.

APPLY

It is believed that the miners are to return to their homelands, but some have indicated that they would apply for work at other gold mines.

The hearing arose from a night of violent rioting and arson three months ago when five African mine policemen and five miners were injured during a strike at the mine.

says Sammy Liebermann "His work has a vigorous appeal."

However, investment buyers should again note that Kumalo's clay models are cast in bronze editions of five or ten At Sotheby's October 1973 sale the 50cm high bronze *Pregnant Woman*, sixth of an edition of 10, fetched R500

Today the Goodman Gallery is offering *Standing Figure*, 92cm high, for R1 500 — from an edition of five Which will be the better investment?

Not all *afficionados* of sculpture warm to bronze castings taken from a wax or clay model "I like to see the mark of a sculptor's chisel before giving unreserved praise," comments Fernand Haenggi "that is why I rate Lucas Sithole the ablest African sculptor his chisel cuts wood and stone with equal finesse"

Haenggi is taking five of Lucas Sithole the ablest African sculptor his chisel cuts wood and stone with equal finesse"

Haenggi is taking five works of Sithole's works to the International Art Dealers Fair in Basle "Perhaps *Warthog* is the outstanding piece," says Haenggi approvingly Carved in yarrawood, *Warthog's* Basle price is R2 900 "But this piece was priced at R2 200 for SA buyers before being withdrawn with our European show in mind," continues Haenggi frankly.

Moreover names like Sithole are as good a currency in New York, Paris and Basle as they are in Johannesburg.

Art investors abroad have a tendency to fall for the work of Black sculptors and potters So African artists may be the best bet for long-term capital appreciation

But don't assume the contemporary work of Africans reflects their indigenous culture. Tribal influence takes a back seat when Nkosi and Kumalo create their distorted and agonised figures in the modern idiom.

Is their work a comment on the Black man's lot in life? If future critics think so, African sculpture will be dubbed important For, as Hazlitt remarked, art is only contemporary life seen through the eyes of one man.

Next week we look at silver

ANGLO AMELIORATES THE MIGRANTS' LOT

R60m is a mind-boggling sum. Anglo's decision to spend that amount on improving accommodation for its Black gold-miners is thoroughly commendable More privacy and comfort, improved lighting, and better eating and recreation facilities will obviously make miners' lives more pleasant Let's hope the other mines follow this outstanding lead

Nevertheless it is sobering to note that part of the money will be spent on an ultra-modern third hostel at Western Deep Levels In Harry Oppenheimer's words in his latest chairman's report "There is no realistic prospect of phasing the (migratory labour) system out in the foreseeable future"

The evils of migratory labour need no repetition Oppenheimer himself says, "I make no pretence of liking the system, which has serious social and economic disadvantages." The tragedy is that not even R60m can humanise something which by its very nature is inhuman

Paradoxically, what Oppenheimer refers to as Anglo's "solid progress" with Black employment conditions is likely to speed up the rate at which the compound system is becoming a strait jacket. It may well — if it has not done so already — set in motion a revolution of rising expectations

Oppenheimer appears to be as mystified by the recent tribal fighting at Western Deep and on Anglo's Free State goldfields as most other people But is there not a touch of complacency in his statement that "investigations . have produced no evidence that (acts of violence) were caused by dissatisfaction with wages or other conditions of service?"

The *FM*'s own enquiries, both in the OFS (*FM* March 8) and this week at Carletonville bear this out But the fact remains that whatever the immediate causes, it occurred among men living under totally abnormal conditions. No proper enquiry can afford to ignore this

That R60m could turn out to be tragically irrelevant

All the more welcome then — and perhaps indicative of what Oppenheimer would like to do in time for gold mining if government and the Chamber of Mines agree — is his announcement that the De Beers' mine in Kimberley no longer depends on migrants but draws all its labour from the municipal township

Last August 400 locally-recruited workers were released from their compound to commute daily to the mine from Galeshewe township, about 5 km away And in July this year, 300 more workers will be released from the Wesselton mine compound to begin commuting from Galeshewe

Within 10 years the plan is that 2 300 of the Black workers on the group's four Kimberley mines will commute daily from the township (where De Beers Consolidated will build houses for them if government and the Diamond Fields Bantu Administration Board will agree), while 300 longer serving migrant workers will remain in one of the compounds

The changeover has had important consequences Pay scales were improved, because free labour had to be attracted by competitive rates Absenteeism rose initially as workers adjusted to their newfound freedom, but has now dropped off to small proportions

Measure of the plan's success is that De Beers wants to extend the system to its Koffiefontein mine in the OFS, as well as to its four Kimberley mines With a much smaller work-force it is easier to phase out the migrant system on the diamond fields But it is to be hoped he complexities which Oppenheimer refers to notwithstanding — that Anglo will be able to persuade government to allow it to use local family-based labour rather than compound-based migrants on the new gold-mines it will be opening up

In his chairman's report, Oppenheimer reveals that De Beers' wages went up by an average of 70% last year, those of coal and gold miners by an average of 60% Anglo is already considerably ahead of the Chamber of Mines' minimum wage-rates, and rumour has it that it is aiming at a minimum of R2 a shift (R52 a month) by the end of the year — more than double the present minimum.

Significantly, Oppenheimer says in the report "The degree of poverty in the Homelands adds urgency to the need for further and substantial improvements in the minimum wage" These remarks are obviously grounded in the survey-work that the Corporation has been conducting into incomes and living conditions in the Homelands

Some of the other mining companies already view the pace of Anglo's advance as too fast, so whether they will all agree to speed it up even more is problematical This also raises the intriguing question of the future of the Chamber of Mines as a wage setting body.

Some of Anglo's critics have been quick to point fingers at the Carletonville shootings last September and the more recent inter tribal violence, and exclaim "We told you so You are moving too fast" If Anglo once overlooked the problems which change itself generates, it is clear that it is well aware of them now

Too often critics point to Anglo's problems as an excuse for inactivity It is to Anglo's credit that, chastened but undaunted, it is pressing ahead with its reforms

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Mine riot: man dies, 20 hurt

STAR 19/5/75

One man was killed and 20 injured when 100 Basotho miners went on the rampage at a colliery near Witbank last night.

liery buses and set fire to a mine hostel. The man who died was in the hostel at the time and it is believed he was overcome by fumes.

The riot erupted at 9.30 pm at the hostel serving Landau No 3 Shaft of SA Coal Estates, just outside Witbank.

A spokesman for Anglo American, which owns the mine, said today that police were called in from Witbank and they stayed on duty all night to prevent further outbreaks of violence.

The hostel houses 1 500 miners — 400 of them Basotho — but the spokesman said that there had been no intertribal clashes.

"It's just one of those outbreaks we can't explain. Most of the miners moved out of the hostel when the riot started and they only returned this morning."

As a result production at the mine will be hit today.

Nineteen African miners were treated in hospital for minor injuries and were later released.

White overseer, Mr G de Bruyn, suffered a serious hand injury.

Added the spokesman: "All is quiet at the mine now and we hope things will be back to normal by tomorrow."

STAR 20/5/75

Labour Reporter

More than 400 of the 1 500 mineworkers at the hostel of SA Coal Estates, where Basothos went on the rampage on Sunday night, have been sent home.

Yesterday an unspecified number of men refused to work. Today all of those still on the mine went to work as usual, according to police.

Witbank and Middelburg police are still investigating the disturbances in which one man died, apparently overcome by fumes, and at least 20 were injured

They are holding 27 mineworkers, some of whom are expected to appear in court soon charged with public violence.

LOST FINGERS

It was disclosed today that a mine employee, Mr G de Bruyn, had several fingers amputated in the Witbank Hospital after being attacked by the mob on Sunday. It is understood the attack followed shots fired over the heads of the crowd.

Police are investigating a report that the trouble started after a Black induna had arrested two men who did not belong to the hostel.

The men who left the mine by train last night are 244 Basothos, 158 Xhosas and five others It is not clear whether all of these men left at their own request. More than 150 Basothos are still at the hostel

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158 Xhosa leave after mine riot

Daily Dispatch 20/5/95

JOHANNESBURG—A mineworker died when several hostel rooms were set alight at a colliery near Witbank, it was announced here yesterday.

An overseer, Mr T. de Bruyn, was taken to hospital suffering from a hand injury and 19 mineworkers treated and discharged.

Disorder broke out in the hostel when a group of about 100 Basotho mineworkers began shouting, breaking windows and the windscreens of mine buses.

Several hostel rooms were set alight and the man who died in the incident was apparently overcome by fumes.

A number of workers were being repatriated and would leave on special trains last night, a spokesman said. They were 244 Basotho, 158 Xhosa, and five others.

It was stressed that the flare-up was not a tribal confrontation. — SAPA.

F.M. 30/5/75

MINES — 1

Weekend blues? 213

More mine violence last week resulted in the repatriation of more than 500 Africans — a third of the total labour force — from Anglo's SA Coal Estates Colliery It has focused attention again on the interdepartmental mine violence inquiry which, a Ministry of Mines spokesman says, is nearing completion

The report is unlikely to be tabled, though Mines Minister Piet Koornhof could release sections for publication, especially as it is known that the Opposition intends to make an issue of it The full report, a spokesman says, will probably be withheld because foreign governments are involved in the matter and some of the findings could be embarrassing

The *FM* learns that the mining industry has been asked very limited questions, such as the date of incidents, the mine, the tribal group and number of casualties If this is all the inquiring that is to be done, what is the purpose of the exercise?

Clearly what is needed is a detailed examination *inter alia* of the migratory contract labour system and compound housing The mines need unambiguous signals from government on where it stands on family housing of African miners and their stabilisation in urban areas

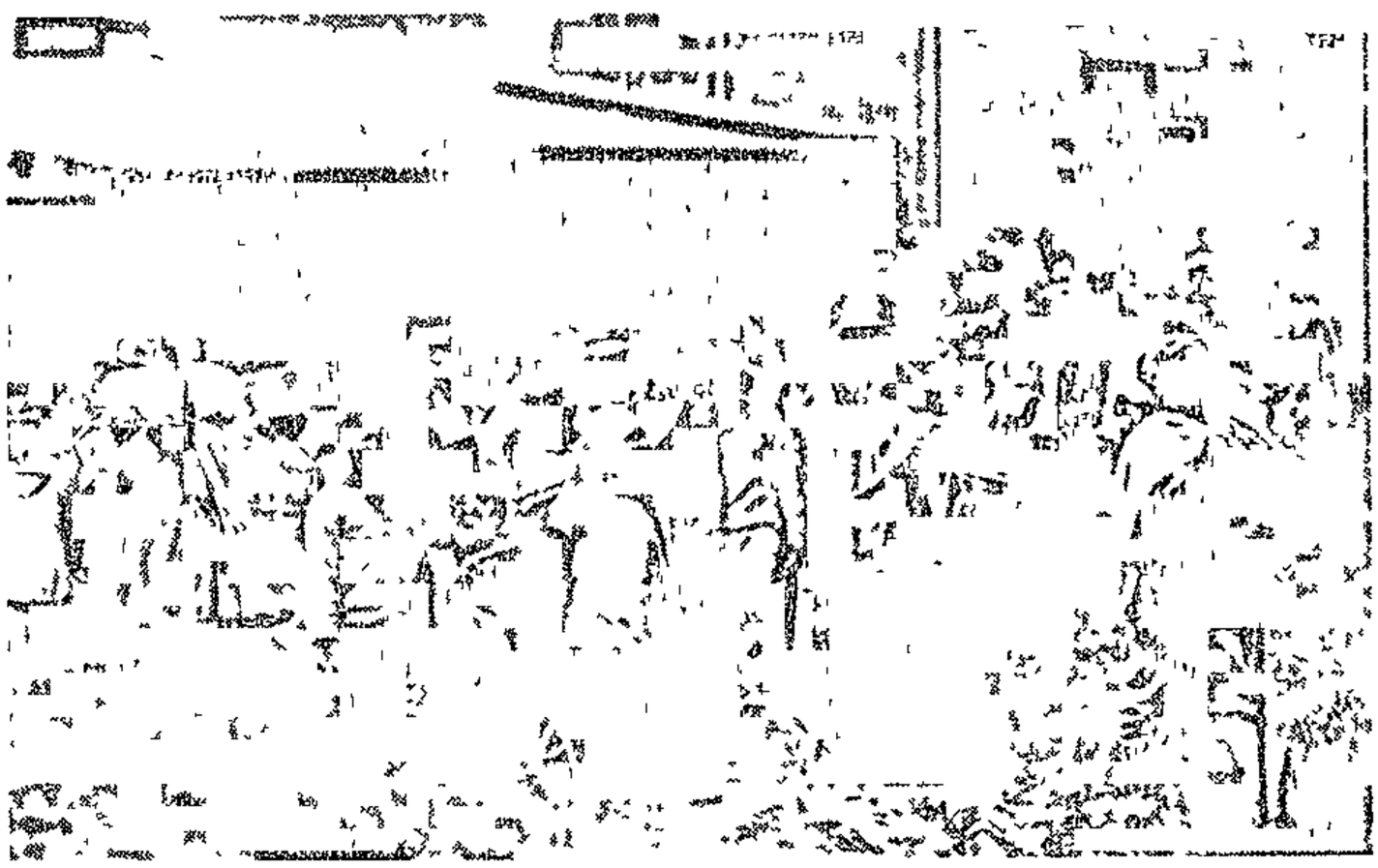
This is not to suggest that compound life is the only cause of mine violence After all, compounds existed long before violence became endemic

Nevertheless, there's an obvious and direct connection between boredom, frustration and the instability of compound life and outbreaks of mob violence The fact that most of the violence has occurred during weekends reinforces this point

Even if the immediate cause of violence can be tied to weekend blues, liquor and women (or the absence thereof) , it is necessary to go beyond the immediate causes if one is looking for long-term solutions (*FM* March 7)

And "foreign" incitement or agitation — while it should be exposed where it can be proved — should not be used as a smokescreen to hide real problems.

Radical government policy changes — involving a complete re-evaluation of influx control and migratory labour — are necessary before any significant reform of the compound labour system is possible So let's hope the interdepartmental committee will not confine itself to police reports and Press cuttings.



Don't attempt a diagnosis from police reports and Press clippings

Financial Mail May 30 1975

MINE LABOUR

F M. 13/6/75

No-riot bonus

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The Mines' Vote this week threw no further light on recent labour disturbances

Opposition speakers tended to neglect the subject altogether — though the Progressive-Reform Party's Gordon Waddell did say he was proud to announce that the SA content of the mining indu- stry's African labour fo[illegible] to 31%, and for the fi[illegible] time ex[illegible] the number of foreign migrant workers

One speaker who did refer to them was Dr Willie Kotze, Nationalist MP for Parys His was a bizarre contribution He suggested disturbances such as those at Western Deep Levels last year, and more recently those in Natal, had not been caused by government's apartheid policies, but arose because there was not enough apartheid on the mines Agitators [illegible] ference [illegible] them to [illegible] the [illegible] propa[illegible] suggest[illegible] off[illegible] such as a bonus at the end of [illegible] riot-free work

Mines Minister Piet Koornhof [illegible] refer to the disturbances except to [illegible] ngue in cheek) that Kotze's suggestion was a brilliant one and that he uld commend it to the inter departntal committee of inquiry

Mine riot: Africans in court

RDM 27/6/75

WELKOM — Sixteen Africans appeared in the Welkom Magistrate's Court yesterday before Mr C P. J Steytler, on charges of public violence and malicious damage to property.

The hearing follows riots on June 9, last year, at the Harmony Mine's No 2 compound in which four Africans were shot dead and five wounded. Damage of R250 000 was caused to buildings in the compound

Colonel J J Fischer said in evidence that police had had to walk through African beer several centimetres deep The administration buildings and other buildings in the compound had burned The residents were riotous and drunk, he said.

The hearing was postponed to August 18 — Sapa

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5500 die in decade of gold mining

RDM 15/7/75

Labour Correspondent

IN THE past 10 years 5 500 men have died in gold mining accidents in South Africa — last year 485 men died, at the rate of nine a week, the second lowest fatality rate on record.

In addition there were 22 222 men injured on gold mines last year

These are termed "reportable accidents" in which mineworkers are laid off for 14 or more shifts The accident rate was 56 men per thousand, while the death rate was 1,22 per thousand

On the coal mines, 44 men were killed and 876 injured, while in 1973, 21 were killed and 855 injured The rise was due to a gas explosion at the Albion Colliery in which 13 men were killed and 95 injured

According to statistics published by the Underground Officials' Association, there was an 8,3 per cent decrease in the number of accident fatalities in the gold mining industry from 529 in 1973 to 485 last year At the same time there was a drop of 6,3 per cent in the average labour employed in the industry — from 422 653 to 395 963 people

Major causes of fatalities in gold mining were rockfalls 289 deaths truck and tramway accidents 85, falling material 19, explosives nine, falling in shafts and excavations 25

In the coal mines 14 men died in rockfalls and 10 in trucks and tramway accidents

The record shows that the highest death rate on the gold mines was in 1909 when 997 men died — a rate of 5,26 per thousand workers.

The deaths in the past 10 years were: 1965, 619, 1966, 584, 1967, 607; 1968, 492, 1969, 624, 1970, 512, 1971, 542, 1972, 500; 1973, 529, 1974, 485 — giving a total of 5 494 killed

There have been five major groups of accidents on the mines in the past 18 months

- The Albion Colliery explosion in January last year killing 13 and injuring 95.
- Rockfalls on the Kloof Gold Mine in March last year in which five men died after 212 were trapped, and on West Driefontein where four men lost their lives
- A pressure burst on Western Areas Gold Mine in May last year, in which 31 mineworkers were injured, seven seriously
- The bursting of a slimes dam at the Impala Platinum Mine in which 15 men lost their lives.
- Rockfalls on East Driefontein and ERPM mines in June this year in which 19 were killed and 40 injured.

About 400 000 Africans and 40 000 Whites are employed in the gold and coal mines

Miners fear job takeover

Labour Correspondent

WHITE trade unionists, supporting the five-day week demand from the Chamber of Mines yesterday, said they were not against Black job advancement, but would not agree to the Chamber's proposal that supervisory powers be removed from trained White artisans.

Mr Barney Bouwer, of the Boilermakers' Society, and Mr Ben Nichaloson, of the Electrical Workers' Association, whose unions have nearly 6 000 members on mines, said neither union was prepared to make further concessions to the Chamber of Mines on Black artisan aides.

BENEFIT

Mr Bouwer said the Boilermakers' Society was the first mining union to favour Black job advancement

"We benefited from it. But now the Chamber of Mines wants more and more

"We are not against Black job advancement, but are standing against the complete elimination of Whites from the industry"

The latest concession asked for by the Chamber was to allow aides to do general welding work and radial drilling on the gold mines, and to work on jobs "tacked by qualified boilermakers"

On the coal mines they would mark and cut plates and work on the instalment of these — all jobs done by qualified artisans

Mr Nichaloson said electricians were worried that unqualified aides would be allowed to work without supervision

"Accidents are increasing because of the indiscriminate use of aides"

Meanwhile the Chamber of Mines disclosed yesterday that White mineworkers are earning on average R700 a month while Black mineworkers are earning R90 a month and get free housing and board

- White and Black mineworkers on the coal and goldfields work a 48½-hour week — five 8¼-hour shifts Monday to Friday and one 7½-hour shift on a Saturday

RDM 10/7/75

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7 jailed for mine fight

BLOEMFONTEIN. — Seven former African miners were sentenced by Mr S Haasbroek in the Bloemfontein Regional Court yesterday to imprisonment varying from 18 months to three years, for public violence

Eight others were acquitted All pleaded not guilty

The hearing arose from incidents at Western Holdings No 3 shaft, Welkom, on August 31 last year, when a number of Africans crowded into a hostel evoking a tribal fight between Basotho and Xhosas

They assualted several people by hitting them with sticks, irons, kieries and other weapons and throwing objects at them Seven men were killed and 60 injured

Thejane Berens, 45, and Rankoe Tshotleho, 40, were each jailed for three years

Jim Ganandema, 40, and Tlope Tseko, 35, recieved two years each Lira Maloco. 40, Obert Leonkoane, 25, and Mphasa Shklane, 25, were each jailed for 18 months — Sapa

226 held in mine tribal clash

(213)

RDM 28/7/75

Staff Reporter

ARMED POLICE were called to the Stilfontein Gold Mine, near Klerksdorp, on Saturday night when faction fighting broke out between Xhosa and Basotho miners.

The direct cause of the faction fight, which broke out at the hostel of the mine's Margaret Shaft, was not known, but is believed to have been sparked off by an argument among a few Basotho and Xhosa miners in one of the rooms.

Groups of men then became aggressive and rowdy, and hundreds of miners were later involved in vicious fighting for more than an hour.

Brig H L. Benade, Divisional Commissioner for Western Transvaal, confirmed that 226 mineworkers were being held by the police at the Stilfontein police station.

He said an identification parade is to be held today and some of the miners would probably be charged with public violence.

Seven miners were injured in the fighting, and and still being treated in the Stilfontein Mine Hospital One is believed to be in a serious condition.

Police and mine security officers were on stand by at the mine last night.

A spokesman said the "position was under complete control" It was thought that most of the "rebellious workers" were held by the police.

The spokesman said after the fighting that slight damage had been done to mine property. Most of the fighting did not take place in the buildings, he said

RDM 29/7/75

at mine

Staff Reporter

STILFONTEIN. — Thirteen Africans are to be charged with public violence today in connection with a faction fight between Xhosa and Bosotho miners at the Stilfontein Gold Mine, near Klerksdorp, on Saturday night.

The Stilfontein police held 226 miners until yesterday. The others were released after an identification parade.

Brig H. L. Benade, Divisional Commissioner for Western Transvaal, said yesterday police were "watching the situation" at the mine after the release of the mineworkers

It is believed that most of the Africans to appear in court, are Bosotho mineworkers.

The direct cause of the faction fight which broke out at the hostel of the mine's Margaret Shaft, was unknown but is believed to have been sparked off by an argument among a few Bosotho and Xhosa miners in one of the rooms.

ROWDY

A spokesman at the mine said the argument probably arose during discussions of a murder at the mine last week.

Groups of men became aggressive and rowdy. Hundreds of miners were later involved in vicious fighting for about an hour.

Police were called to the mine, but the situation had already been brought under control by mine officials and security units.

The mine spokesman said that slight damage had been done to mine property.

Seven miners were admitted to the Stilfontein Mine Hospital after the fighting. One is believed to be in a serious condition.

Brig Benade said the action by the police to arrest a large number of miners, was not a new method to cool the fighters off. They were all members of an aggressive group suspected to be responsible for the fighting, he said.

SOME VIEWS, IMPRESSIONS, AND CONCLUSIONS ON THE RIOTS AND THE LABOUR UNREST WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THE MINING INDUSTRY RECENTLY - BY J.A. GROBBELAAR, THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE TRADE UNION COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA.

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1. INTRODUCTION.

It is essential, right at the outset, to point out that there appears to be no known common thread or discernable pattern applicable to the sequence of disturbances which have occurred amongst the Black labour force in South Africa's mining industry recently. The causes of both the initial unrest and the violent action which often followed are, in most instances, difficult to clearly isolate and define. It follows, therefore, that it is extremely difficult to arrive at universal and all embracing conclusions.

Nonetheless, a study of some of the more important individual incidents shows that certain common factors were prevalent. This allows for a possible pin-pointing of certain weaknesses (as they presently exist) in the systems of labour relationships and employment practices of the mining companies affected.

2. CHRONOLOGY OF THE UNREST AND CERTAIN RELEVANT FACTORS APPERTAINING THERETO.

a) Western Deep Levels Gold Mine - September 1973:

The labour dispute, which developed into a subsequent riot on this mine on the 11th of September 1973, was undoubtedly the fore-runner of all subsequent major incidents. It is therefore dealt with in some detail.

The available evidence appears to indicate that the labour dispute which developed on the 11th of September 1973, was initially triggered off when increased wages were given to Black underground locomotive drivers the week previously, in line with the mine's newly decided upon policy of re-evaluating jobs and bringing about improvements. This step created dissatisfaction amongst the Black machine operators, who felt that this move was denigrating their status. They speedily conveyed their dissatisfaction to the Management of the mine, emphasising that they should have been given prior consideration.

It is of significance to note that Basotho workers are invariably engaged as machine operators, whereas Blacks from other African nations usually drive locomotives, lash, etc., and it is also important to note that there has always been a degree of occupational jealousy between

the national groups concerned. Of significance also is the fact that machine operators have generally enjoyed higher wages in the past, than those paid to locomotive drivers and other underground Black workers.

It is obvious that not only were these machine operators disgruntled because the lower paid workers had been given relatively substantial improvements in precedence to them, but they were also dissatisfied at the refusal of the Management of the mine to accept that quick action should be taken to improve their conditions. The group then started to demonstrate, as a means of expressing their frustration, and rapidly became emotionally worked up. Their infectious frenzy was quickly communicated to many other workers, culminating in wide-spread and large scale stoppages of work amongst most of the Black workers, irrespective of national groupings or occupations. This quickly led to the complete breakdown of law and order, with the South African Police finally having to be called in by the mine's security services. The situation had by then got completely out of hand, and the riot was fully blown.

The resultant use of fire-arms by the police caused some 12 deaths, and a further 25 suffered gun-shot wounds. It is to be deeply regretted that this action in itself, probably had some bearing on the triggering-off of the continuing sequence of other violent incidents. There is no need to render much more comment on this particular incident, since a judicial inquiry was held into the actions of the South African Police, which absolved them from any incorrect behaviour in relation to the dead and wounded Blacks.

It is, however, to be regretted that an official inquiry was not held in order to establish where the fault lay for the incident occurring at all. If this had been done then, many of the further incidents could probably have been averted.

Three important factors in this particular incident deserve mention:-

i) The original demonstration resulted from a genuine labour dispute;

ii) Inter-nation conflict amongst the different Black nations quickly evaporated after the initial group demonstrations. A front of Black solidarity developed against the mine authorities initially, and then subsequently against the South African Police;

iii) Meaningful communication between the mine Management and the Black workers at all stages, was virtually nil. This led to a rapid deterioration in the situation. The initial dissatisfaction arose because Management failed to convince the Black workers of the correctness of their policy. Anger developed when Management failed to appreciate the workers' dissatisfaction, and finally became uncontrollable when the situation failed to be defused.

b) Durnacol Coal Mine - October 1973.

The primary cause of the violence which erupted at Durnacol Coal Mine during October of 1973, which resulted in the death of some 10 Black miners, and 18 injured, remains obscure. Apparently a minor fight took place between two Black miners over a trivial matter. This then developed into a full scale clash between nationals from the Xhosa and Basotho groups.

On the available evidence, this incident was a straight-forward clash between two groups of nationals - a probable manifestation of long-standing national prejudices between the two groups being expressed by violent confrontation.

The number of killed and injured tends to suggest that very deep prejudices existed between the two groups on the mine, and the factor of this hate should have been appreciated by the Mine Management before the incident occurred This particular inter-nation clash (on a large and severe scale) probably set the stage for the further severe clashes which took place on various mines

c). Welkom Gold Mine - February 1974:

The riot and clash which took place at this mine on February the 9th, resulted in the death of 9 Black miners, and injury to more than 100. Apparently this was also a straight-forward inter-nation clash between groups from the Xhosa and Basotho nations.

Little or no information is available as to the initial causes of the clash, but it can be assumed that the serious clash which had taken place in October 1973, between Xhosas and Basothos at the Durnacol Mine had been widely discussed amongst these two national groups, both in their Homeland Areas, and in the various compounds throughout the mining industry. The series of inter-nation clashes

which followed fairly rapidly from here onwards, and which involved these two national groups, tends to re-inforce this assumption.

d) Western Holdings Gold Mine - February 1974:

On February the 16th, a violent clash took place on the Western Holdings Gold Mine, again between Basotho and Xhosa tribesmen, resulting in the death of 3, with 45 being injured.

This clash was quite obviously a follow-up to the incident of the previous week at the Welkom Gold Mine. The two mining properties virtually adjoin one another, and there has always been visiting between the various Black nationals on these two mines

A quick identification with the groups' conflict on the Welkom mine thus became a fact at Western Holdings.

e) Free State Geduld Mine - February 1974:

One Black miner was killed and 42 injured on February the 17th, on the Free State Geduld Mine, again as a result of clashes between elements of the Xhosa and Basotho national groups. This was also very obviously an extension of the previous clashes, that had taken place on the Welkom and Western Holdings Gold Mines during the previous week, since the Free State Geduld Mine also adjoins both the Welkom and Western Holdings properties, with close contact being a normal feature of existence of the work force on these three properties.

f) Welkom Gold Mine - April 1974:

One Black miner was killed and 10 others injured, in a renewed clash between groups of Xhosa and Basotho miners on April the 5th, at the Welkom Gold Mine. This clash was also obviously a perpetuation of the inter-nation conflict being indulged in by nationals from the two groups.

g) Western Deep Levels - April 1974:

i) Western Deep Levels mine also experienced further trouble on April the 14th, when 3 miners were killed and 30 injured in another obvious inter-nation clash.

The nature of this particular incident was distinctly different from that which had taken place in September of 1973, on this mine. The previous incident had developed from a genuine labour dispute into a riot, whereas this incident was but another manifestation of the escalating inter-nation conflict that had been taking place in the Free State Mines, which had now spread to the Western Transvaal.

ii) On April the 16th, a further clash between national groups took place, resulting in 7 being killed and 33 injured. This incident was also obviously a continuation of the escalating pattern of violence between two groups of nationals.

h) Lorraine Gold Mine - May 1974:

A labour dispute developed between the Black workers and the Management of the Lorraine Gold Mine on May the 28th, and this escalated into a riot which resulted in the South African Police being called out to restore law and order. Two miners were shot dead, and 6 were injured in the action which followed.

Little information is available as to the initial causes of the dispute, but apparently a demand for improved conditions of service was made by the Black workers to the Management, and rejected

It is significant to note that no apparent inter-nation conflict was present on this occasion. A solid Black front of solidarity appeared to exist against the Management in this dispute.

i) Harmony Gold Mine - June 1974:

Wage grievances amongst the Black mine workers, leading to a dispute with Management, and an escalation to rioting by the Black labour force took place on June the 9th at the Harmony Gold Mine.

Four Blacks were killed and 20 injured in the incident. It was again apparent that communication between the Black workers and the Management was either non-existent, or only at a very primitive level, because the same pattern of events developed, namely; grievances not being satisfactorily handled, dispute develops with Management, resultant riot, and intervention by the South African Police, leading to the use of fire-arms to restore law and order, and death and injury the net outcome.

Page 6/...

j) Merriespruit Gold Mine - June 1974

A riot took place on June the 11th at the Merriespruit Gold Mine, which led to the South African Police again being called in to restore law and order. 1 Black mine worker was killed, and 10 injured in the action, and some 8 persons suffered bites from Police dogs.

The riot was obviously a sequel to the incident which had taken place on the Harmony Gold Mine two days previously. The full causes of the riot are not known, but it appears as if the initial cause was basically that of a labour dispute between the workers and the Management.

It is significant to note that the Merriespruit Gold Mine adjoins the Harmony Gold Mine

k) Rustenburg Platinum Mines - August 1974:

On August the 8th, an inter-nation clash took place on the Rustenburg Platinum Mines between factions from various nations. 3 Black miners were killed and 16 injured, in this violent confrontation.

l) Western Holdings Gold Mine - August 1974:

There was a renewed outbreak of violence on the Western Holdings Gold Mine on August the 31st, when Black miners engaged in another obvious inter-nation clash.

The net result was 3 killed, and a fairly large number injured This incident was an obvious continuation of the feud between nationals from the Basotho and Xhosa nations.

m) Western Platinum Mine - September 1974:

Black miners rioted at the Western Platinum Mine on September the 29th. The cause of this riot is virtually unknown, but the Police had to take strong action, which resulted in 2 Black miners being shot dead and 5 wounded, before law and order was restored.

n) East Rand Proprietary Mines - October 1974:

A riot took place on the East Rand Proprietory Mine on October the 13th which was apparently confined to Malawian nationals 1 Black miner was killed, and 23 injured. Subsequently some 1 500 Malawians stopped work, demanding that they be repatriated to their homes.

o) East Rand Proprietary Mines - October 1974:

Just a week later, on October the 21st, another riot took place on the ERPM. Approximately 1 000 Mozambique Black workers were involved. After they had been dispersed by police and dogs, a strike took place, and a demand was made by the strikers that they be repatriated to Mozambique Subsequently, some 200 were sent home.

p) Western Deep Levels Gold Mine - October 1974:

On October the 27th trouble again erupted on the Western Deep Levels Mine. In this incident, Malawian mine workers were involved for the first time The trouble evidently started when a Malawian mine worker was stabbed by another unknown Black. This led to rioting, and a consequent strike by some 900 Malawians, which escalated to 1 400 being involved by the next day.

Some 400 Malawians were subsequently repatriated to their homes.

q) Hartebeesfontein Gold Mine - October 1974:

On the same day, October the 27th, a riot developed at the Hartebeesfontein Gold Mine. 2 deaths resulted. The causes of the riot are unknown, but it can be assumed that this was an overflow action from the incident which had developed at Western Deep Levels.

The following day some 3 500 Black miners on the mine stopped work, and after renewed rioting had taken place, a further 2 000 men stopped working At a later stage another 750 men also ceased work. There were thus some 6 000 Blacks actively engaged in the disturbance at one stage.

r) West Rand Consolidated Mine - November 1974:

On November the 14th, 1 500 Malawians on the W.R.C. Mine stopped work, with a demand to be sent home. The actual strike finally petered out a week later, but at one stage more than 2 000

Malawians were demanding to be repatriated.

s) Western Deep Levels Gold Mine - November 1974:

The Western Deep Levels Gold Mine once again experienced the resumption of inter-nation clashes on November the 20th. A Mozambique Black was killed in the fracas.

Immediately afterwards, an estimated 100 Mozambique Blacks demanded to be repatriated to their homes. Strike action by them then took place, and subsequently 100 Mozambique Blacks were repatriated to their homes.

t) East Rand Proprietary Mines - November 1974:

On November the 20th, some 3 000 Malawians at the ERPM demanded to be repatriated to their homes. 2 000 of these later decided to stay, but by the end of 1974 virtually all of the 3000 Blacks involved initially had been repatriated to their homes.

u) Impala Platinum Mines - December 1974:

Four Blacks were killed and 78 injured in an inter-nation clash at the Impala Platinum Mines on December the 16th. Subsequently some 4 000 Black miners on this mine ceased work, and did not resume work again until 11 days later, on December the 28th.

v) Crown Mines - December 1974:

A serious riot took place on the Crown Mines property on December the 22nd, which necessitated some 150 police being called in, by the Mine, to restore law and order.

Apparently only Malawians were involved in this incident. Some two days later, some 650 Malawians were repatriated to their homes.

w) Prieska Copper Mine - December 1974:

On December the 29th, an inter-nation clash took place on the Prieska Mine between elements of the Tswana and Xhosa nations, which resulted in 3 Blacks being killed and some 35 injured.

Some 700 Tswanas followed the clash up by taking strike action, and approximately 400 Tswanas left the mine in order to return to their homes.

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x) Freestate Saaiplaas Gold Mine - January 1975

On January the 1st, some 5 000 Basotho miners struck on the Freestate Saaiplaas Gold Mine

The strike action was in the nature of a protest strike against the amended system of deferred pay which had been introduced by the Lesotho Government. The strike lasted for two days.

It is significant to record that this strike was aimed by the Basothos against the actions of their own Government. There was no dispute with the employer, but dissatisfaction with the unilateral actions of the Lesotho Government.

y) Western Deep Levels Gold Mine - January 1975:

On January the 3rd 1975, 1 700 Lesothos at the Western Deep Levels Mine struck for one day for the same reason.

z) Vaal Reefs Gold Mine - January 1975:

On January the 5th, a Black miner and a Black Policeman were killed in the rioting which took place on this mine. A further 5 Black miners were seriously injured. On the following day some 1 200 Black miners stopped work.

The cause of the rioting, and the subsequent stike action which took place, was also evidently that of the deferred pay issue. Further sporadic outbursts of violence took place up until January the 19th. This continuing violence brought the number of dead up to 12 on this mine by January the 19th.

During the strikes, there was evidently some inter-nation clashes between elements of the Basotho and Xhosa nations.

aa) Blesbok Colliery - January 1975:

Some 500 Basotho mine workers at the Blesbok Colliery threatened to stop work on the 8th of January over the deferred pay issue. Two Lesotho Government representatives, who addressed them on this matter in the course of the evening of the 8th of January, were beaten up.

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ab) New Largo Colliery - January 1975.

Some 220 Basothos protested about pay deferment at the New Largo Colliery on the 7th of January, and were subsequently sent back to their homes.

ac) President Brandt Gold Mine - January 1975:

On the 14th of January, serious rioting again took place on the President Brandt Gold Mine, following a strike by several thousand Basotho miners over the deferred pay question.

Some 10 persons were seriously injured in the riot (including 5 African Policemen)

On the following day, some 2 400 Basotho miners were discharged by the mine.

ad) Northfield Colliery - March 1975

30 African miners lost their lives in the rioting and internation clashes which took place on the Northfield Colliery, over the week-end of March the 1st/2nd.

At least 14 others were seriously injured in this clash between elements of the Xhosa and Basotho national groups. The initial clash evidently started during a football match between the two groups, and speedily escalated into a wide-ranging two day running fight between the two groups concerned.

3. OVERVIEW OF THE DISTURBANCES.

The events chronicled cover a period of approximately 18 months. In all, some 30 serious incidents took place. There were others of lesser importance, which are not reported on in this presentation.

In the incidents reported on, some 114 Black miners were killed, either by their fellows, or through South African Police action, or mine security services. Some 528 Black miners were also injured, many of them seriously.

At a conservative estimate, the reported incidents involved some 80 000 Black miners.

No assessment can be made of the value of the damage caused to mine property, and no assessment is made of the cost involved in restoring law and order. Obviously both amounts were considerable.

Neither is there an assessment made as to the value of the mining production lost, but this must undoubtedly run into several millions of rands.

It is also not possible to calculate, in monetary terms, the damage which has been done to the image of South Africa's labour and industrial relations, nor is it possible to calculate the degree of irreparable harm done to South Afric's overall image in the world's councils.

It is sufficient to opine that ammunition has once again been provided - to a frightening degree - for both the Republic's critics and enemies, in their campaigns to convince the world that South Africa practises undesirable and repressive policies of exploitation and discrimination towards Black workers.

All of the incidents will be portrayed as industrial disputes, even though many were not - being rather inter-nation clashes - and renewed efforts for intervention in South Africa's affairs will undoubtedly be fuelled by using these events as reason to do so.

4. CONCLUSIONS.

Although (as was stated at the beginning of this memorandum) no overall discernable pattern can be applied to the disturbances, certain common factors are present, and therefore some general conclusions can be reached. These are:-

i) The communications systems between Management and the work force were hopelessly inadequate. At best the system was primitive, and at worst it was virtually non-existent.

In virtually every reported instance, it can be seen that relatively minor issues escalated into frightening and wide-ranging degrees of conflict. In almost all instances, mine Managements were totally unable to defuse the situation which arose. Invariably minor grievances triggered off violent actions, which had to burn out, before something approaching normality was restored.

The final solution reached in most instances, was merely that of allowing the workers to return to their homes. This has not resolved the basic issue of improving communications. The bridging of the communications gap must be tackled from both sides, i.e. both "upwards and downwards" communication must be improved. Quite obviously the induna system as an effective means of communication is inadequate and obsolete, mainly because of the changing nature of the Black workers.

ii) Many of the incidents were straight-forward inter-nation clashes, between elements of various national groups. The incidents were expressions of the long legacy of prejudice and dislike which exists between various African factions. The mining companies should have been more aware of the potential for these serious inter-nation clashes, since they have always occurred to some degree, in the Mining Industry. Steps should have been taken by the mining companies to introduce some forms of segregation, which would have prevented these warring factions from remaining in close proximity to one another when the initial clashes started.

iii) Some of the most serious incidents resulted from the issue of deferred pay. Both the Lesotho Government and the Mining Companies obviously failed to appreciate the seriousness of the grievances felt by the Basotho mine workers on this issue.

There was a degree of political activity behind the scenes on this particular issue. It must be reasonably assumed that the present Lesotho Government's political adversaries were, to some degree, responsible for spreading dissatisfaction amongst the Basotho mine workers on this issue.

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TUCSA was itself made aware that this issue was a serious grievance issue amongst the Basotho mine workers, way back in November of 1974.

In a discussion which the General Secretary of TUCSA had with the Interim Committee of the newly formed Lesotho Mine Workers' Union in Maseru during November of 1974, this grievance issue was presented as a major item on the Agenda by the Union's representatives. Both the Anglo-American Corporation and the Chamber of Mines was notified of this fact at the beginning of December, 1974. Regrettably they failed to take notice of the warning given that this issue should receive attention.

It is not known whether the Lesotho Mine Workers' Union played any part in generating any of the subsequent protest actions which centered around this issue.

iv) Many of the incidents which occurred, took place on mines which fall under the control of the Anglo-American group. This is not without significance.

It must be accepted that Black expectations have been generated as a result of promising and enlightened statements made by prominent personalities in this group, but very often the expectations have not been matched by the realities. This has undoubtedly led to the generation of disillusionment, frustration and anger.

It must be recognised that the Black mine workers of today are much more sophisticated and better educated than their predecessors. They have read and heard about general socio-economic developments taking place in South Africa, and they are aware of the names of these organisations which espouse "better deal" policies. Any failure then on the part of these employers to "put their money where their mouth is", inevitably brings the type of reaction which resulted.

v) Most of the disturbances occurred on mines which are situated in developing or non-metropolitan areas. The lack of social amenities on mines which are remote from the "bright lights" of major cities is undoubtedly a contri-

butory cause for dissatisfaction amongst Black miners herded into compounds. A dissatisfaction which has as its roots, boredom, frustration and an unnatural social life, must tend to manifest itself through violent action. The migratory labour system, with the evils of compound life as the corollary, must be phased out as soon as possible - not only on moral grounds - but because the system is no longer a good management practise. This is particularly true, when no social distractions are available, as in the lesser developed areas.

vi) The growth of Black nationalism and Black consiousness are factors which cannot be ignored.

Most of the inter-nation clashes took place between elements of the Basotho and Xhosa groups. The Basothos have now been fully independent Black citizens of their own country for several years, and the Xhosa nationals are soon to achieve this status of independent nationhood.

There is thus a growing awareness amongst these peoples of their independence as Black nationals, and a developing conciousness of their "Blackness". Their ego and pride will no longer tolerate any real or imaginary slur. They are "walking tall" today, as distinct from their servile behaviour of the past, and are thus also more prone to react to real or imagined injustices or exploitation, which also has an important bearing on the following factor.

vii) The factor of White racial prejudice cannot be ignored.

Much of the Management and supervisory White staff in the Mining Industry still regard Black labour merely as units of labour. They cannot visualise them in the context of employees with aspirations, ideas, and a dignity which is common to man.

This attitude on the part of the White supervisors builds up resentment, and a "Them" and "Us" attitude develops which invariably leads to a conflict situation. It is of significance to record that at times the various national groups amongst the Blacks involved in the incidents submerged their

identities to form a common front against either the White Management, or the South African Police. It was a "Black versus White" confrontation at times. This development is extremely disturbing, and strenuous efforts must be made to remove the growing Black belief that the Whites have everything, will resist a more equitable sharing, and despise and dislike them because of their Black skins. This rejection leads to the Black rejection of White values, the destruction of White property and White symbols, and developing conflict.

J.A GROBBELAAR
GENERAL SECRETARY

DATE: 2ND JUNE, 1975.

JAG/DGL.

Tucsa spells out mine riot causes

Rand Daily Mail 30/7/75

By CLIVE EMDON, Labour Correspondent

AT LEAST 80 000 African mineworkers were involved in the sporadic riots and unrest on the mines, resulting in 114 deaths over 18 months.

This was revealed today in a Tucsa report.

During the period 528 people were injured.

Detailing 30 major incidents — the last being in March — the council report underlines several common factors.

The report was sent to the Government commission investigating the disturbances.

It says that of the "conservative estimate" of 80 000 Black miners involved, 11 000 were sent home, many at their own request.

The report says it is impossible to calculate the damage done to South Africa's labour and industrial relations image — nor the degre of irreparable harm done to South Africa's image.

The report lists these several common factors in the disturbances:

- Communication between management and workers was hopelessly inadequate
- Many of the incidents were clashes between various national groups.
- Some of the most serious incidents resulted from deferred pay.
- Many of the incidents took place on Anglo American mines where Black expectations had been generated by enlightened statements by prominent personalities in the group — but not matched.
- Most disturbances occurred on mines in developing areas away from major cities, and without proper social amenities

● See Page 24

Mine riots: Black worker needs a new deal

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RDM 30/7/75

It was 18 months of "sheer hell" for the mining houses . . . trying to contain anger and prevent riots and strikes from breaking out. Yesterday the Trade Union Council listed key factors to this industrial unrest. Natal sociologist Mr Eddie Webster, writing in the SA Labour Bulletin, scratches below the surface, and talks about the supply and control of labour to the gold mines.

CLIVE EMDON: Labour Correspondent

Rand Daily Mail, Wed, July, 30 1975 — CONT.

THE FIRST STRIKE by African mineworkers was in 1913 The commission which investigated the disturbances found that the main grievance was "the colour bar which blocks practically all opportunities of promotion."

In 1920, 71 000 Africans came out on strike for better pay conditions, lower prices at compound stores and against the colour bar At that time, the White miners earned 10 times more than the Blacks — today he earns eight times more.

In 1945, four years after the first effective African Mine Workers Union was formed, strikes and disturbances followed a reduction of rations by the mining houses

Then in 1946 the union called for improved living standards and a minimum wage for all miners of R1 a day. The demands were ignored and AMWU called a general strike in August 1946 — 74 000 workers came out for four days

The strike leaders were arrested and police surrounded the compounds There were several violent confrontations and, on one mine, workers were driven underground at bayonet-point. Nine men were killed and 1 200 injured

The strike did not succeed in bringing about better conditions General Jan Smuts said at the time that the strike was not caused by legitimate grievances, but by agitators

That strike in 1946 was the last major occurrence of industrial unrest by African mineworkers until September, 1973, when a labour dispute developed on Western Deep Levels Gold Mine and was followed by a riot

This was the forerunner of a series of 30 major incidents on gold, coal and platinum mines over 18 months which threw the mining houses into confusion and resulted in the repatriation of 11 000 workers, the death of 114 and the injury of 528.

The Trade Union Council submitted a report of the key factors underlying the riots and unrest o a commission investigating the disturbances

These factors include:

- A "hopelessly inadequate" communications system between mine management and Black mineworkers, including the induna system, which it termed obsolete.
- The new and higher expectations of mineworkers which are not being matched by better wages and opportunities.
- The lack of social amenities on some mines causing boredom and frustration to men living in compounds without their families, due to the migratory labour system
- The factor of White prejudice and the treating of Black workers merely as units of labour — which showed at times in a Black/White confrontation, with workers forming a common front against White management or the South African Police.

Most of these factors have existed on the mines for years. And certainly we should try and look to some of the causes of these

It is important to see the African worker on the mines in relation to his White bosses and to the White mineworker

Eddie Webster, a lecturer in sociology at Natal University, sees the basic conflict in the mines being the fact that what is income for the worker is a cost to the mineowner

The task of the mineowners is to create and contain a vast supply of cheap African labour

Gold mines in South Africa operate on an extremely sensitive cost structure, profits being totally dependent on low production costs for two reasons:

- Because the average gold content of the ore is low
- Because the internationally controlled price of gold prevents the mining companies from transferring any increases in working costs to the consumer.

Thus, within this narrowly circumscribed cost structure, the usual area of cost minimisation has been wages

How the surplus generated by the mineworker is divided between mineowners and workers depends primarily on the power relationship between the two sides.

This, says Webster, is highly unequal when one considers African mineworkers who have no unions—and are actively prevented from organising unions — while the mineowners have powerful employer organisations which have the active support of the State.

However, the lot of the African mineworker has not only been determined by the profit-motive of the mining houses, but also by the vested interest of White mineworkers.

Webster sees the White mineworkers as constituting an artistocracy of labour — taking his share of the surplus produced by the Black mineworker.

This is certainly borne out by the most recent deal reached by the (White) Mineworkers Union and the Chamber of Mines.

White mineworkers will be earning an estimated R900 a month in return for making concessions which will allow greater use of Black mine labour.

The threat of strike by the White union works wonders. For, since 1913, the White miner, retaining his control on most skilled operations of production, has, through strike action, repeatedly advanced his privileged position against the mineowners' attempts at introducing cheap African labour.

The Labour-Nationalist Pact Government secured for him a virtual monopoly of highly paid, skilled jobs on the mines and through the Industrial Conciliation Act of 1924 set up a system of collective bargaining which excluded the African.

In the recent dispute with the Chamber of Mines over a five-day week, the unions in the Council of Mining Unions, representing 18 000 White workers, repeatedly claimed that the concessions being demanded by the chamber were nothing more than an attempt to replace Whites with cheap Black labour

In a brutally frank interview with the Financial Mail last week, Arrie Paulus, general secretary of of the Mine Workers Union, said his union had "given very little" in bargaining for a five-day week. Yet conceded that eventually Whites underground would be replaced by Blacks Until that time, he said, the chamber could well afford to pay White mineworkers R1 000 a month

Paulus showed that White mineworker interests are antagonistic to the interests of Black mineworkers.

He supports continuation of the migratory labour system, he says Black mineworkers are earning enough and is flatly against allowing them further job opportunities — well, at least, not if they pose any threat to White workers' jobs and job control.

Webster says the mining industry will only solve its labour crisis when it copes with:

- The hazardous nature of the work — reflected in the mortality rate of 5 500 over the past decade.
- The lack of job advancement opportunities
- The repressing living conditions in the compounds.
- And at the core of the reluctance of Africans to work on the mines — the migrant labour system itself.

He says the necessary condition for the achievement and implementation of these reforms is the emergence of a viable and democratic African mineworkers' union

In a situation in which workers cannot organise or bargain, they tend to react in other ways. One way is simply to refuse recruitment to the mines Another method is industrial sabotage where individuals tend to destroy or mutilate objects or each other in the work environment

This is done either to reduce tension or frustration or, on the other hand, to assert some form of direct control over one's work or life

Unplanned smashing and spontaneous destruction are signs of a powerless individual or group and suggests that they principally occur in industries which are in the "pre-trade union" state

Webster says the wave of unrest on the mines referred to in the main as "faction fights" seemed to be in some instances clear cases of industrial sabotage

If the mining industry is to maintain its labour supply, he says, new techniques of control will be necessary and these will inevitably involve the participation of workers in collective bargaining

He says, however, that to enable effective bargaining to take place the industry will have to dismantle those aspects of the industry which prevent a system of "free" wage labour from emerging

But for an African to demand the right to sell his labour where he pleases is to make a political as well as an economic demand — this is the predicament of the African trade unions in general, Webster says

Until the Second World War, 80 per cent of Black mine labour was South African labour. This proportion has dropped to 24 per cent, with the balance coming from Mozambique, 27 per cent, Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland, 29 per cent, and Malawi and Rhodesia, 20 per cent.

All this labour is migrant labour — labour recruited on a year's contract from tribal centres.

It has become an institutionalised system, ensuring a cheap, rightless and unorganised labour force.

Webster says there are two main benefits of the system to the mining houses.

The existence of "homelands" or reserves where Africans allegedly have an alternative source of income to supplement their mine wages, has provided mineowners with justification for subsistence wages.

Secondly oscillating migration prevents effective "class mobilisation" For an effective trade union to come into existence there must be a body of lifelong wage-earners, free to sell their labour, wholly dependent on wages without prospects of becoming independent producers and aware of the benefits of collective bargaining.

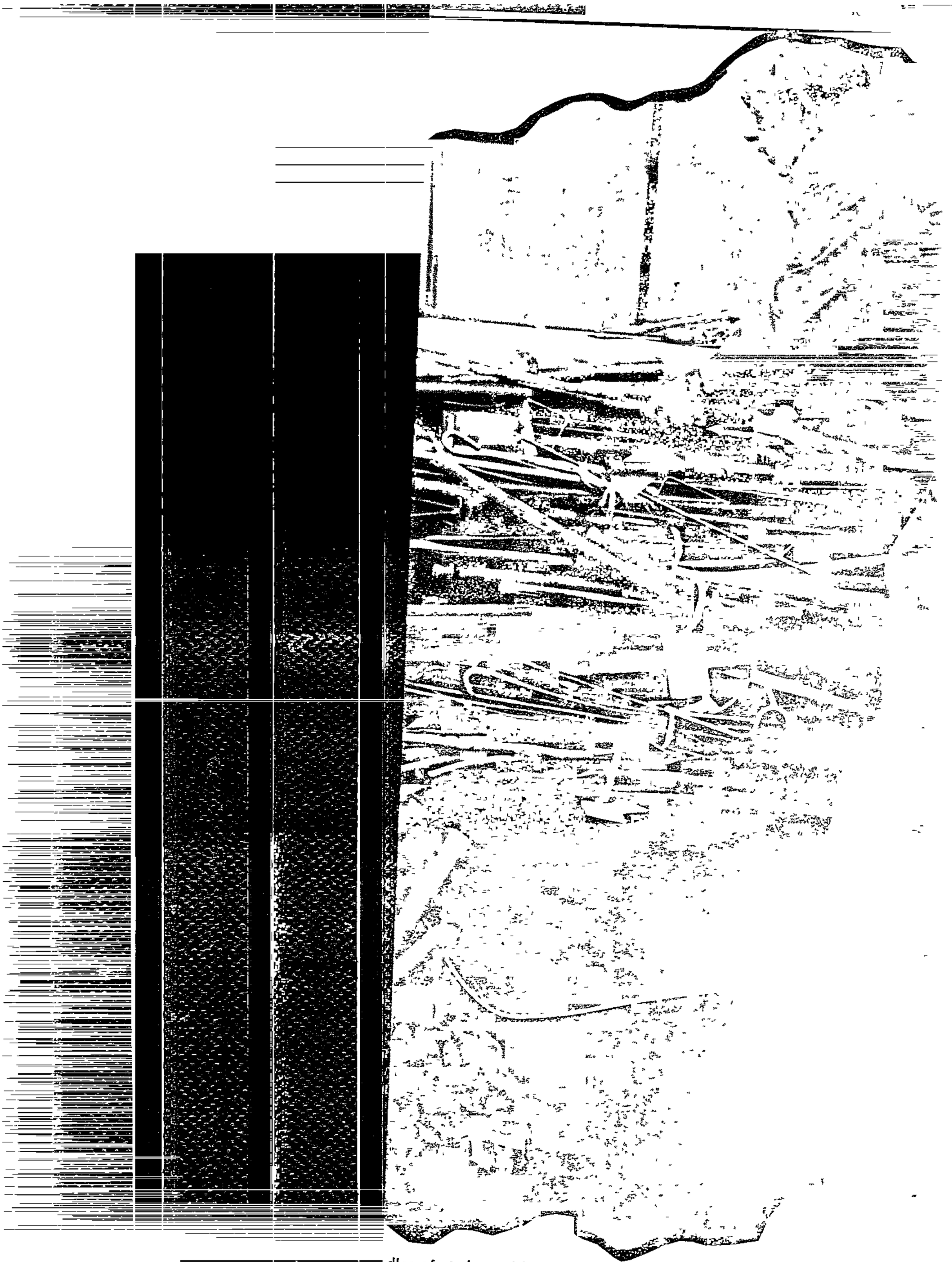
The yearly contract worker is inhibited from developing skills, both in performance and in control of his work situation. This inhibits the emergence of an effective class consciousness.

The quasi-military institution of the compound, often structured in a way that encourages inter-ethnic strife, provides an ideal technique for the control of labour.

There is a vast literature accumulated in South Africa on the evils of the migrant labour system—its effects on tribal life in the reserves of the social consequences for the family unit and the unhappy social consequences in the cities with men being cloistered up in single-sex compounds

The mining houses have throughout the history of the industry, especially in recent years, fallen back on Government policy which has prevented the settlement of Black families on the mines.

With the renewed attempt of the mining houses to increase the proportion of South African Africans employed and the Government's new policy to allow urban home-ownership, it would be the right time for the mining houses to come up with a proper housing and socialising plan for Black labour.



dles of sticks and kieries, hammers and pangas . . an exhibit in co
after one of the Carletonville riots.

Sunday Times 24/8/75

Stanley Uys

HE mining industry has become ne of the first sting grounds r race relations South Africa as whole.

Many problems in the ning industry are the oblems of South Afca, only not quite so ge. If mining cannot e the smaller-scale oblems, can South Af- solve the larger s?

abour, for example, nanifest in an acute n in the mining industry All 352 000 Afin miners are mints, some from reserin South Africa, the t from neighbouring ck states. Can the dustry handle this blem?

ther common probs are:

Workers' representon. African miners not within sight of de unionism and ir works committees even more rudimen- than the works mittees in factories.

Wage gap: in 1968 as 17·1; by 1969 it widened to 20:1 ay, as a result of five essive wage increato African miners, gap is 8:1 It may n again as a result the new five-day introduced in min

Colour bar: White ng unions obstruc the advancement of can miners into skilled jobs.

he four problems — ant labour, trade nism, the wage gap the employment r bar — are at the of South Africa' al race problem nd its usual bla r lor, the dustry is wrestling desperately with these issues

A new chapter in mining labour relations opened in September, 1973, when a riot occurred at the Western Deep Levels gold mine. No fewer than 30 labour disputes occurred on gold, coal and platinum mines during the next 18 months, involving 80 000 Black miners, and resulting in the death of 114 and the injury of 528.

Sent home

This was not the only toll the mining industry counted: about 11 000 miners were sent home, many at their own request, causing a loss of output. There was extensive damage to mine property — and to race relations — and to relations between South Africa and the Black miners' countries of origin.

The Trade Union Council of South Africa has produced a report on the disturbances in which it isolates key factors as underlying the unrest.

"Hopelessly inadequate" communications between mine management and Black miners, new expectations of miners which were not matched by better wages and opportunities, lack of social amenities on some mines, causing boredom and frustration, race prejudice among some White officials.

Most of these conditions have prevailed in mining for years. The new element is the climate of rising expectations among Blacks, created by developments such as the decolonialisation of Mozambique and Angola, the recent Black wages revolution in South African secondary industry, and the wind of change that is blowing through Southern Africa

The disturbances in the mining industry demonstrated the truth of the saying that it is dangerous to reform a bad system — in this case, the low-wage based migratory labour system.

Ferment

In 1973 the basic wage of a Black underground miner was 50 cents a shift; in December 1973 it was raised to 72 cents, in June 1974 to R1,20, in December 1974 to R1,60, and in June 1975 to R2,20.

Yet it was during this period that ferment set in throughout the industry, until some mining leaders felt they could not win: the ferment was spreading, and yet the granting of higher wages, instead of dampening the trouble, was like lifting the lid off Pandora's box.

Although the basic minimum wage earned by a Black miner today is R2,20 a shift (26 shifts a month), the mining industry claims that the average earnings of a Black miner are R90 a month. The basic pay of a White underground miner is just over R400 a month, but the average White miner's pay, according to the industry, is R700 a month

If, under the new five-day week negotiated by the White miners' unions, White miners volunteer to work four extra shifts a month (on Saturdays), they will be able to boost their average monthly earnings to R900. Whether Black miners will also get a further pay boost now is not clear.

The shifting pattern of the mining industry's labour supply is also causing concern.

A few months ago the industry was down to 72 per cent of its Black labour complement. Now with 352 000 miners, it is up to 91 per cent

Killed

But whereas, early in 1974, as many as 130 000 Malawians worked in South African mines, now there are only 19 000.

President Banda of Malawi seized on an air crash in April 1974 — in which returning Malawian miners were killed — as an excuse to suspend recruitment

It was believed at first that he was positioning himself to demand higher wages for Malawian miners, but the ban on recruitment persists How Malawi is providing alternative employment for the miners is not known, yet recruitment is still not allowed.

Foreigners

The mining industry believes over-dependence on foreign labour is "dangerous" and has intensified its recruitment of South African Black labour, raising it from 80 000 in 1974 to 120 000 today. Rhodesians are also being recruited — 4 000 so far.

In 1930 South African miners comprised 60 per cent of the Black labour force. By the end of 1974 this figure had dropped to 21 per cent; now it is up again — to 33 per cent

Recruitment in Mozambique increased from 86 605 at the end of 1974 to 100 227 today, in spite of the Frelimo take-over. The labour supply from Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland is up, too, from 90 000 at the end of 1974 to 109 000

The recruiting position, except in Malawi, is therefore fairly satisfactory. Malawi has shown, however, just how sensitive a factor foreign labour has become.

The problem is intractable enough when it involves South African migrants; it is well-nigh insuperable when the migrants are foreigners. This bedevils the whole question of settled family life, trade unionism and skilled jobs

There are 352 000 Black and about 35 000 White miners, of whom 9 000 are members of the Mine Workers' Union and 9 000 members of other unions, such as the Electrical Workers, Boilermakers, Woodworkers and Amalgamated Engineers unions The remaining 17 000 Whites are officials.

The Mine Workers' Union has taken the lead in opposing African trade unionism and African advancement on the mines.

Black miners are represented by tribal representatives and elected from representatives, and superimposed on this traditional system is a whole series of works committees being tried out as the industry gropes its way towards a more sophisticated system — within the restraints of the migratory labour system and Government policy.

A major step was taken in African advancement in 1973 when the industry secured the assent of the Mine Workers' Union and of the artisan unions to the introduction of a system of Black aides for White artisans. Further negotiations are still taking place on the tasks these aides may perform; but the recent negotiations over the five-day week saw the mining unions in an anti-Black advancement mood again.

Fears

During the negotiations on the five-day week, the MWU general secretary, Mr Arrie Paulus, voiced the fears of the union that the industry was conspiring to phase out White miners

In a revealing interview with the Financial Mail, Mr Paulus said Black miners should always be subservient to White miners, the Black miner only had a future as a labourer, the migratory labour system should be maintained, Black miners should not be given trade unions, and Black miners did not need another wage increase.

It was hairy stuff, but then Mr Paulus showed a streak of fatalism — for as long as he "was around", he said, the future of White miners would be secure for the next 10 years; meanwhile, he suggested, the industry could afford to pay White miners up to R1 000 a month.

There, in microcosm in the mining industry, are some of South Africa's major race problems. As the producer of 43 per cent of South Africa's foreign exchange earnings, the gold mining industry needs urgently to find solutions to its problems.

If, in the process, it can show South Africa how to solve its larger national problems, everybody will be much relieved—and eternally grateful.

The Cape Times, Monday, August 25, 1975

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4 miners killed in clash

JOHANNESBURG. — Four African miners were killed and six injured, two seriously, in a fight between Xhosa and Rhodesian Africans at the Blyvooruitzicht gold mine near here at the weekend.

The nationalities of the dead miners were unknown.

A company spokesman said the fight followed a stabbing incident between a Pondo and a Rhodesian. The Rhodesian was knifed and is still in hospital.

In addition to the casualties one room was set on fire.

There are 200 to 300 Rhodesians working on the mines. — Sapa.

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Trying to cool riot mine

MERCURY 26/8/75

JOHANNESBURG — Mining officials were yesterday trying to cool temperatures after four Black mineworkers were killed and 19 hurt in the first tribal clash involving Rhodesians on Saturday night.

One hostel room was burnt out and a number of windows were smashed in the disturbance at the Blyvooruitzicht gold mine.

The faction fight between Xhosas and Rhodesians followed an underground knife fight between a Rhodesian and a Pondo on Friday. A minor assault on Saturday night sparked off the flare-up which was quashed by mine security police within 30 minutes.

Since then, Tswanas have become restless and have demanded to be sent home — (Sapa)

MINE VIOLENCE F.M. 29/8/75 213

An uneasy limbo

Violence on SA's mines must now be near endemic after the deaths last weekend of four Rhodesian Blacks at Blyvooruitzicht gold mine near Carletonville.

Since the shootings at Western Deep Levels in September 1973, 140 mineworkers in SA and SWA have died in clashes, the root causes of which remain unfathomed.

At Blyvooruitzicht, according to a Rand Mines' spokesman, tension between SA and Rhodesian Blacks led to a brief but bloody rampage on Saturday night.

The situation is in uneasy limbo as 200 Rhodesians sit in Wenela's Johannesburg compound while matters are thrashed out

Recruiting only began in Rhodesia this year and Rand Mines believes some of the men, who have an urban background, acted in a "superior" fashion to SA counterparts

So far, the attitude of the Rhodesians is not known. Commendably, the Chamber of Mines was this week questioning the men on their feelings with the Rhodesian recruiter brought to Johannesburg to assist. As Tony Fleischer, GM of the Chamber's Mines Labour Organisation, puts it: "We want to find out about it We're responsible for these people."

Each violent clash on the mines affects far more people than the dead or injured A recent Tucsa report states that at least 80 000 Black mineworkers have been involved in unrest since the 1973 shootings; the number is certainly greater now A real fear for the Chamber must be that, if the Rhodesians in Wenela compound decide to go home, this might influence the rest of the 4 000-odd Rhodesians involved in the industry.

The majority will probably not go home. Rand Mines says "quite a number have a sense of duty, and have adopted a level-headed approach". Some "young aggressive types" might be repatriated; those who remain will not be returned to Blyvooruitzicht.

The events at Blyvooruitzicht underline a point sociologists have made: that while immediate causes of clashes vary greatly, and can frequently arise from petty matters, it is quite probably the condition of life of the men enmeshed in the migrant labour and single-sex compound system which prompts the incidents.

Dr Francis Wilson, of UCT's Labour and Development Research Unit, notes that the compounds are "the kind of place for eruptions over a dispute which in other circumstances would only lead to friendly rivalry".

Wilson feels that over the past two years an "irreversible" change has taken place in the migrant workers' outlook through a combination of events: the Durban strikes, Mozambique independence, rising wages and external détente. Now the migrant's mood is one of "expectation combined with a feeling of hopeless frustration".

15 hurt in mine clash

RDM 9/9/75

Staff Reporter

FIFTEEN miners are in hospital, three of them in a serious condition, following a drunken brawl at ERPM's Central Compound in Boksburg at the weekend.

A spokesman for ERPM said the miners had supplemented their compound beer with methylated spirits.

Fifteen miners are in hospital with knife and stone wounds. Three had "serious" stabbing injuries.

Police had quickly calmed the situation and normal shifts continued, the spokesman said.

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Frelimo call after stabbing, court told

Rand Daily Mail 17/9/75

By JOHN BUYS

ERMELO. — There was a shout of "Viva Frelimo" as a mob of Mozambique mine workers ran riot at Ermelo after a stabbing, and a man was clubbed to death in a cell.

This evidence was given yesterday in the Ermelo Circuit Court when 19 men were charged with murdering a fellow mineworker at the Spitzkop colliery compound at Ermelo last Christmas Day.

The men, all Shangaans on contract from Mozambique, are accused of killing Mr Goodman Nzimkulu Bless, a Xhosa miner, after he had allegedly stabbed one of their colleagues, Mr Alfredo Sitoye, in the neck during a row. Mr Sitoye recovered from the stabbing.

The 19 men also appeared before Mr Justice Eloff on an alternative charge of public violence.

A mine policeman, Mr Johan Langa, told the court a group of workers at the compound had told him one of their colleagues had been stabbed to death.

They demanded he open the cell where the man who stabbed their friend was being held. One of them shouted, "Viva Frelimo Machel". The men then went to Mr Bless' cell.

Mr Langa said he and other policemen went after them. When they arrived at the cell, the door was open and Mr Bless was dead.

The hearing continues today.

X TIMES 11/9/15

Miner killed

BOKSBURG. — One man was killed and 12 injured in tribal fighting between mineworkers at the ERPM mine near here yesterday. — Sapa

213

(213)

Teargas broke up riot at gold mine, court told

R.D.M. 25/9/75

By JOHAN STOLTZ

TEARGAS had to be used to disperse miners during a riot in which two people were killed and several injured, the Klerksdorp Regional Court was told

In court yesterday were 22 African mineworkers who pleaded not guilty to charges of public violence which arose from a riot and faction fighting between Basotho and Xhosa miners at the Stilfontein gold mine on July 26

The Magistrate, Mr E. D Wyethe, heard that the miners had been armed with knobkieries, iron bars, sticks and stones and were aggressive and rowdy

Obstacles were put in a road between the hostel buildings by the miners to prevent the mine's riot van from passing

During the fighting several miners were injured and had to be taken to hospital Two died later

Teargas was used by mine security officials to disperse the rioters Police reinforcements were called later.

More than 200 African miners were held by the Stilfontein police in connection with the fighting Two days later an identification parade was held and 22 were charged

The hearing continues today

Miners get 18 months

RDM 3/10/75

213

Staff Reporter

KLERKSDORP. — Seventeen African miners were found guilty of public violence by a Klerksdorp Regional Court magistrate yesterday and jailed for 18 months.

The hearing arose from rioting and fighting in which two miners were killed and several injured at the Stilfontein Gold Mine in July this year.

The court heard that teargas had to be used to disperse the rioters.

Later 220 miners were held by the Stillfontein police. An identification parad was held and 22 were charged with public violence.

Five miners were found not guilty by the court yesterday.

Miners strike after clash

213

STAR 20/10/75

Labour Reporter

About 780 of the estimated 3 500 Black miners at the southern shaft hostel of the Buffelsfontein gold mine refused to go to work today after a tribal clash last night.

Fourteen men were hurt in the fight between Basotho and Xhosas, although mine security men—who happened to be on patrol there—broke it up with teargas "within seconds".

The body of one Xhosa was found after another incident at the mine.

Only four of the injured were still in hospital today, none of them serious.

A large number of weapons was removed from the hostel and a close watch was kept on the situation, a spokesman for the mine said.

Only 50 out of the 180 men on night shift reported for duty. Those who failed to go to work today represented the bulk of the Basotho at the hostel.

CONFRONTATION

A mine labour inspector was speaking to them today.

About the same time as the fight broke out in the southern shaft hostel, a Mozambique miner was stabbed to death in the mine's main hostel.

Later there was a confrontation between Xhosas and Mozambique miners, but no fighting. Still later the body of a Xhosa was found, but there were no further incidents.

"There is no reason to believe the occurrences at the two hostels were [illegible]" the mine spokesman [illegible]

213

Basotho mineworkers want to leave

Natal Mercury 21/10/75

Mercury Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Six-hundred Basotho mineworkers at the Buffelsfontein Gold Mine near Stilfontein have demanded to be sent home following a clash in which two died and 14 were injured.

This was confirmed last night by a spokesman for General Mining, who said about 180 others who earlier refused to work had decided to go back today.

A murder docket has been opened following the death on Sunday night of a Shangaan mineworker, as yet unidentified, killed in an incident at the mine's Pioneer Shaft hostel. The body of a Xhosa mineworker was also recovered at the same hostel after a reported clash between Xhosa and Mozambique miners.

As news of the deaths spread, a more serious clash developed at the mine's South Shaft hostel on Sunday between Basotho and Xhosa miners.

A security patrol brought this under control using tear gas. Fourteen men were injured and four were sent to hospital. The hostel houses 3 500.

A General Mining spokesman said the cause of the clashes had not yet been established.

After 780 Basothos refused to go on shift and demanded repatriation, a long series of discussions were held with the mine management.

The miners were addressed by the general manager of Buffelsfontein, Mr. Louis Grobler, and Chief Malapa. About 600 remained determined to be sent home.

The mine employs 14 500 Blacks.

~~(1) 165~~

(2) 213

FM 24/10/75 (213)

That 6 000 Rhodesians are now working on SA mines? Wenela recruiting began on January 2, and the end of year total is expected to be around 7 500

Apart from recruiting in the urban areas of Bulawayo, Salisbury and Fort Victoria Wenela is now operating in north east Rhodesia using runners with pamphlets, under White supervision

A spokesman at Wenela's Salisbury office told the *FM* that about 300 Rhodesians had been repatriated — 200 for "misbehaving" during mine fighting and the remainder because of reluctance to stay on after the bloodshed

STAR 5/11/75 (213)

3 stabbed to death in mine riot

East Rand Bureau

Three mine workers died after they were brutally assaulted in a flare-up outside the central compound of ERPM near Reiger Park, last night.

A senior police spokesman said it seemed a private fight broke out between two men. A group of about 12 bystanders sided with one and attacked the other, stabbing him repeatedly and hitting him with stones.

The man fled towards the compound first aid clinic, but collapsed and died before he reached it.

Another group who witnessed the assault joined the fight and singled out a man stabbing him about 30 times. When he fell, some of the men lifted a concrete slab and dropped it on the back of his head crushing his skull.

Others joined the fight and a third man was stabbed to death. Two other men were seriously injured and are in the ERPM hospital.

Police quelled the disturbance with teargas and mine dogs. The trouble was over in about 15 minutes, but police stayed on for a few hours to ensure that the men settled down.

The police spokesman said it was not proper faction fighting but just a general disturbance. Those dead are a Xhosa, a Zulu and a Sotho. There have been no arrests.

Riot mine now calm

(213)

STAR 6/11/75

Order has been restored and the atmosphere at the mine hostel, Virginia, where African mineworkers rioted over a pay misunderstanding, was calm, a spokesman for Rand Mines said today.

He said that without the knowledge of the mine management, a small number of men had developed grievances.

Eighteen African mineworkers were injured. Of these, 11 were admitted to the mine hostel, none critically injured.—Sapa.

Oproer by myn oor lone

Rapport 9/11/75

213

WELKOM. — Polisie met honde en traangas was gister heeldag by die myn op Virginia nadat vyfhonderd swart mynwerkers deur die nag oproerig was. Dit het alles oor 'n „misverstand oor lone" gegaan, het lt.-kol. T. J. Fischer, distrikskommandant van die polisie gesê.

In die onluste is agttien mynwerkers beseer. Elf is in die mynhospitaal opgeneem maar hul toestand is nie ernstig nie.

Die mynwerkers het tot bedaring gekom nadat mnr. J. H. Mosenthal, die besturende direkteur van die myn, met hulle gepraat het.

Vrydagnag het die oproerige werkers 'n gebou waar sporttoerusting gebêre word, verbrand. Die polisie moes honde gebruik om die skare uiteen te jaag sodat die brandweer naby die gebou kon kom.

Miner killed, 18 injured in riot

Star 10.11.75

213

Labour Reporter

One man was shot dead and 18 were hurt in a night of violence and arson at No 1 hostel of the Virginia Gold Mines.

Police used teargas and dogs to control the rioting by about 500 of the mineworkers at the hostel.

Damage was estimated at R30 000.

A Rand Mines official said the trouble arose from "a change in pay administration arrangements."

The rioting broke out at 8.10 pm on Friday and was followed by incidents of arson which continued well into the next morning.

Various buildings were set alight but the main damage was to a storeroom containing sports equipment, including about [illegible] expensive racing bicycles, said Lieutenant Colonel [illegible] J Fischer, district commandant of Welkom.

The most serious confrontation came when the rioters attacked the administration building and stoned police.

Many windows were shattered and police used dogs to drive the men back. Most of the injuries were caused in this incident.

The shooting came much later when police chased a man who had allegedly set alight a building.

"The pursuit lasted for about one kilometre," Colonel Fischer said.

"He fled into a bushy river area and it was then that the shot was fired."

Calm was restored on Saturday morning and no further incidents have been reported.

ARGUS 10/11/75

Death in riot at mine

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — One man was shot dead and 18 were hurt in a night of violence and arson which caused an estimated R30 000 damage in the No 1 hostel of the Virginia Gold Mine.

Teargas and dogs were used by police to control rioting by about 500 of the Black mineworkers at the hostel.

213

Wage plan dropped as miners strike

By CLIVE EMDON
Labour Correspondent

OFFICIALS at the ERPM mine at Boksburg have shelved a new pay procedure for Black miners after 3 500 men from Mozambique refused to work.

Police were called to the mine's central compound on Sunday as workers gathered in a threatening mood. There were no incidents.

On Monday morning the 3 500 miners refused to go on shift. They went to work in the afternoon after talks with the ERPM management, which agreed not to introduce the new pay procedure.

A spokesman for Rand Mines said yesterday the proposed system would ensure an easier payout of wages.

Instead of the present arrangement of payments being made after mineworkers complete 30 shifts — carrying payment date beyond the end of each month — wages were to be paid strictly on a monthly basis.

Meanwhile, 170 trainee mineworkers from Mozambique are to be repatriated from the Anglovaal Loraine gold mine at Allanridge in the Free State for refusing to do the five-day acclimatisation programme.

The programme involves four hours of exercises a day in specially controlled rooms at high temperatures and high humidity as a prelude to going underground.

Star

Miners back at work

25/11/75

Labour Reporter

All was normal at Witwatersrand Nigel Gold Mine, near Heidelberg, today after 400 Mozambique mineworkers refused to go to work yesterday following a fight.

(213)

213

Bloody clash at mine: 14 arrest

STAR 28/11/75

Heidelberg police have arrested 14 men so far in their investigation into the bloody tribal clash on the tiny Witwatersrand Nigel Gold Mine.

Nine Black mineworkers were killed and 48 injured, two of them seriously, in the second outbreak of violence since the weekend.

Eight of the dead were Xhosas and one was a Shangaan from Mozambique. Their names are being withheld, pending notification of their next of kin.

This clash is the worst on a South African mine since 30 men died at Natal collieries in March.

The trouble began on Saturday night when police had to use teargas at the mine's 1 800-man hostel after Xhosas and Shangaans clashed.

Police estimated about 50 men were hurt, none of them seriously.

Hundreds of Shangaans refused to work and demanded to be sent home, but they resumed work on Tuesday.

At 7 pm on Wednesday a clash began which led to the nine deaths.

Teargas has been used to part the combatants, but no further police measures were necessary, the spokesman said.

All the men were back at work today, police said.

After the death of about 30 Black mineworkers on two Natal collieries during the first weekend of March, the Minister of Mines, Dr Piet Koornhof, announced the appointment of a departmental committee of inquiry.

No report by the committee, which was to investigate the underlying causes of the disturbances and to recommend countermeasures, has been published so far.

Mine fight kills 9

Cape Times 28/11/75

2/3

Own Correspondent

HEIDELBERG. — Nine African mine workers have been killed and 48 injured in a faction fight at the Witwatersrand-Nigel gold mine near Heidelberg.

A police spokesman said the men died on Wednesday night after a faction fight involving Shangaans, Pondos and Basothos at the mine compound.

The fighting apparently escalated into a brawl involving about 400 men when the different tribal groups at the mine began making reprisal attacks after a number of minor assaults.

Men attacked each other with iron bars, hammers, knobkieries and tree branches.

Nine die, 48 hurt in mine battle

Rdm 28/11/75

By ROY DEVENISH

NINE African mine workers have been killed and 48 injured in a faction fight at the Witwatersrand Nigel gold mine near Heidelberg.

A police spokesman said the men died on Wednesday night after clashes between Shangaans, Pondos and Basothos at the mine compound.

The fighting apparently began after a number of minor assaults. Reprisal attacks followed and eventually about 400 men were involved.

Iron bars, hammers, knobkieries and tree branches were used as weapons. Considerable damage is believed to have been done to the mine buildings.

Police were rushed to the scene soon after the fighting broke out and continued to watch over the mine yesterday but no further incidents were reported.

Detectives from the East Rand are investigating. No arrests have been made so far.

The chairman of the mine, Mr S. F. Dench, last night refused to discuss the incident other than to confirm that there had been a faction fight.

Two shot in raid at OFS mine

W/E ARGUS 29/11/75

(213)

Weekend Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Two men were shot and wounded at the Saaiplaas gold mine near Virginia in the Free State yesterday when a mob of Black mineworkers attacked police during a raid on a shebeen.

The situation on the mine was tense last night, according to a spokesman for the Anglo-American group. Angry workers refused to go underground for the night shift, and police had to be called in to restore order.

However, work on the mine went ahead as usual this morning, he added. The two injured men are in satisfactory condition.

Mercury 1/12/75

24 hurt in mine battle

(213)

JOHANNESBURG — A clash between African mineworkers at Western Areas Gold Mine after a Basotho worker was stabbed and killed in an argument with a Tswana ended with 24 men being admitted to hospital on Saturday night, a spokesman for Johannesburg Consolidated Investment (JCI) said yesterday.

He said that none of the injured was in a serious condition. They were admitted to the Albert Robinson Hospital near Randfontein.

The spokesman said the trouble started when a Basotho was stabbed in an argument with a Tswana. The Basotho died soon afterwards and as a result a group of Basotho workers fought with other tribal groups including Tswanas.

Mine security officials at the mine which is near the town of Westonaria had to use tear gas to disperse the crowd, the spokesman said.—(Sapa.)

Cape Times 2/12/75

Miner killed in faction fight

(213)

JOHANNESBURG. — A clash between mineworkers at Western Areas gold mine after a Basotho worker was stabbed and killed in an argument with a Tswana ended with 24 men being admitted to hospital on Sunday night, a spokesman for Johannesburg Consolidate Investment (JCI) said yesterday.

Mine security officals at the mine, which is near the town of Westonaria, had to use tear gas to disperse the crowd, the spokesman said. — Sapa

D.O. 1/12/75

213

Faction fight victims serious

JOHANNESBURG — Two of the mineworkers injured in a faction fight at the Western Areas Gold Mine at the weekend are in a "serious condition in hospital and 22 are satisfactory", a mine spokesman said yesterday

The fight flared after a Mosotho was stabbed dead in an argument with a Tswana.

Mine security men used tear gas to disperse the crowd.

A spokesman for Johannesburg Consolidated Investment (JCI) said all was quiet at the mine yesterday. Production had not been affected.

A mineworker was taken into custody by police and is expected to appear in court soon.

The mine spokesman said many of the 22 who were not seriously hurt were suffering from cuts and bruises and were expected to be dicharged from hosptal soon.—SAPA.

TROUBLE AT RAND MINE

213

5/2/76 Mercury Correspondent NM.

JOHANNESBURG — At the Western Platinum Mine between Rustenburg and Brits, Transvaal, 230 Lesotho and Mozambique miners have held a "wildcat strike" lasting two days, a director of Lonrho, Mr. Ian Mossy, said yesterday

The miners returned to work after they had a newly introduced wage system explained to them, but Mr Mossy confirmed that mine police were called out in strength on Monday night.

This was the fourth mine to experience a disturbance following the introduction of a four-weekly pay system in place of the 30 shift system

The new method of payment is related to the introduction of a five-day week, still to be introduced

Mr. Mossy said no real damage was caused at the mines other than a broken window or two and branches torn off trees There were no injuries

Brawling miners moved

18/2/76

Mercury Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — A number of Rhodesian Africans were moved from their compound at Durban Deep Mine, Roodepoort, yesterday after a skirmish with Xhosa miners in which 23 people were injured.

A spokesman for the mine said the trouble started when a Xhosa worker was assaulted by three Rhodesians as he started his shift.

He described the incident as "not serious."

Police officers said they were called to the mine at 10 p.m. on Monday where they subdued several small brawling groups.

Six of the injured required hospital treatment. None was critically hurt, and police made no arrests.

(1) (2/3)

(2) Rhodesia – Labour

213

ARGUS 23/2/76

Refusal by mineworkers

JOHANNESBURG. — About 1 000 African mineworkers refused to go underground at the Lorraine gold mine, Welkom, after five men were killed in faction fighting between Rhodesians and Mozambicans there.

Anglovaal said in a Press release that most of those refusing to go underground were Rhodesians who said they feared reprisals — Sapa

213

The Natal Mercury, Thursday, February 19, 1976.

Mine riot: new theory...

Mercury Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Roodepoort police were on standby yesterday after another outbreak of violence at the Durban Roodepoort Deep mine on Tuesday night during which 22 Xhosas and Shangaans were injured. And a theory about deliberate agitation of the troubles is being studied.

The flare-up followed skirmishes on Monday night when 23 people were injured in the mine compound in a fight between Rhodesians and Xhosas.

A number of Rhodesian Africans were moved from the compound to prevent further outbreaks, but on Tuesday night police were again called to the mine.

Mine security officers told police the second fight had apparently been between a Xhosa and a Shangaan after the Xhosa had mistaken the man for a Rhodesian.

At about 8.30 p.m. police rushed to the compound with dogs and dispersed angry Xhosas and Shangaans who had attacked each other and broken windows and furniture in their sleeping quarters.

When order was restored, a total of 22 men were taken to the mine hospital for treatment of minor injuries, and mine security officers and police kept a careful watch on the situation until yesterday.

Mine investigators are now considering the possibility that a handful of agitators might be behind the disturbances, and it is understood that several men have already been removed from the compound.

Police suspect that certain Xhosas and Shangaans still want to settle their differences.

Five killed in faction fight

213

STAR 23/2/76

Five mineworkers were killed and 20 injured — two seriously — during faction fighting among 1 000 men at the Loraine Gold Mine at Allanridge, near Welkom, last night

The fighting broke out between Rhodesian and Mozambican workers after an argument between two men about 6 45 pm

About 1 000 men, mainly Rhodesian, refused to go underground today because they feared reprisals.

Mine officials are negotiating with the workers.

Police from Welkom were called to quell the fighting They left the mine at 11 pm.

STONED

The fighting involved about 1 000 men and lasted about two hours

The five dead were knifed or stoned to death

The injured are in the mine hospital. Two men are in a critical condition

According to a spokesman for Anglovaal, there was no damage to mine property and fighting was limited to one area

Four of the dead are Rhodesians Names are being withheld until next-of-kin have been notified.

Refusal by mineworkers

Argus 23/2/76

JOHANNESBURG. — About 1 000 African mineworkers refused to go underground at the Lorraine gold mine, Welkom, after five men were killed in faction fighting between Rhodesians and Mozambicans there.

Anglovaal said in a Press release that most of those refusing to go underground were Rhodesians who said they feared reprisals. — Sapa.

Rhodesian miners leave for home

25/2/76

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — A total of 575 Rhodesian mineworkers from the Loraine gold mine near Allenridge in the Free State left for home by train last night after insisting on being discharged

The men feared reprisals after faction fighting with Mozambique mineworkers on Sunday night when five men were killed, four of them Rhodesians

About 160-180 Rhodesians chose to stay, a spokesman for the mine said today

He said 18 men were still in hospital, one on the danger list, as a result of the fighting

are best off if both increase prices. But
'm A: would you do it? Remember that you would
c of losing $50,000 if your opponent stood pat.
nstances under which you would not increase your
were a conservative manager for whom the hope
wasn't worth the risk and worry of possibly
(2) if you believed that firm B was under
ment and would not assume the risks of a price
, there is a third circumstance that leads to the
that suggests how subtly one has to reason when
It is (3) if you believe that firm B believed
onservative firm and would therefore not raise your
price. But it is far from certain that the firms would make mutually
advantageous decisions if they were not allowed to communicate.

ames suggest one ingredient of life in an oligopoly;
play among the rivals. In practice, the games
re far more complicated. Each firm may have to
tions of several confreres rather than only one,
a range of alternatives with respect to prices,
chandising policy, and many other things, instead
chotomy. On top of that, the inevitable uncertainties
impossible to write down a sure-fire matrix, as we

5 killed: miners strike

213

RDM 24/2/76

Labour Correspondent

A THOUSAND Rhodesian mineworkers went on strike yesterday at the Lorraine Gold Mine near Odendaalsrus following an outbreak of fighting in which five men were killed.

Last night it was not known whether they would return to work. Police were on standby.

Anglo-Vaal has confirmed that five men were killed in the fighting on Sunday afternoon. Twenty men were injured, two of them seriously. Four of the men killed were Rhodesians.

There was no damage to mine property in the fighting which flared up after a Rhodesian miner allegedly attacked a Mozambican worker. The fighting started in No 3 hostel and spread to No 2 hostel.

Anglo-Vaal confirmed that the police were called in on Sunday, but did not have to take action because the fighting had stopped

R.D.M. 25/2/76

213

We want to go home, say death mine Rhodesians

Staff Reporter

KLERKSDORP — More than 600 Rhodesian mineworkers yesterday refused to work at Loraine Gold Mine near Odendaalsrus and demanded to be repatriated

This follows weekend fighting in which five men were killed

Mr Paul Wheeler the mine manager, said yesterday he believed most of the mine workers would go underground soon

Fear of further fighting was probably the major cause for the miners' refusal to resume work, he said

Negotiations with the miners are still being held by the mine management, assisted by two recruiting organisation officials

It was thought the fighting flared up after a Rhodesian miner attacked a Mozambican worker.

The fighting between Rhodesians and Mozambicans was at the mine's No 2 shaft hostel Four of the men killed were Rhodesians

Police are still investigating, but nobody has been arrested

An official inquiry into the deaths of the miners is to be held — probably within the next few weeks

On Monday 1 000 Rhodesian workers went on strike on the morning shift

213

CAPE TIMES 26/2/76

Rhodesians leave mine

WELKOM — A total of 575 Black Rhodesian mineworkers from Lorraine gold mine left by train for their homes last night after they had asked to be discharged following disturbances at the mine.

There are still 171 workers at the mine. Five men were killed in the disturbances but the situation at the mine was once more calm and under control, said the mine officials yesterday — Sapa

Recruiting for mines will go on

RDM 26/2/76

(1) ~~Rhodesia - Labour~~

(2) ~~211~~

(3) 213

'Mail' Africa Bureau

SALISBURY. — The Rhodesian Government has no complaints about the working and living conditions of Rhodesian African workers recruited for South African mines.

The Minister of Labour, Mr Rowan Cronje, said in the House of Assembly in Salisbury yesterday that the Government would not stop recruitment for South Africa

Mr Cronje was asked by an African MP, Mr Tom Zawaira, if he would stop the recruiting in view of the "plight" of Rhodesian miners at the Durban Deep Mine

The Minister said African workers going to South Africa were all volunteers and the numbers were increasing

He said reports received indicated that the Durban Deep disturbances on February 14 were started by three drunken Rhodesian mineworkers who attacked a Shangaan without provocation

TYPE OF FARM EMPLOYEE - DOMESTIC RACE - AFRICAN YEAR - 1972/73

AVERAGE MONTHLY TOTAL WAGE FOR ALL ECONOMIC REGIONS =R 13.74

DEVIATIONS FROM AVERAGE MONTHLY TOTAL WAGE BY ECONOMIC REGION

EC REGION	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
DEVIATION	29.42	2.09	11.70	15.80	16.07	5.94	-1.20	5.66	-1.75	-.90	-1.76	-1.41
EC REGION	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
DEVIATION	-3.90	-2.45	-2.53	-1.74	-3.24	-3.38	-3.34	-2.58	-5.71	-4.00	-3.70	2.68
EC REGION	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
DEVIATION	1.29	-.52	-1.49	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	.84	-1.86	9.43
EC REGION	37	38	39	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	46	47	48
DEVIATION	6.76	8.18	5.11	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-1.85	-4.92	-2.35
EC REGION	49	50	51	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	58	59	60
DEVIATION	-4.29	-7.66	-6.04	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-5.29	-6.33	-4.59

TYPE OF FARM EMPLOYEE - DOMESTIC 1972/73

AVERAGE MONTHLY CASH WAGE FOR ALL ECON[illegible]

DEVIATIONS FROM AVERAGE MONTHLY CASH W[illegible]

EC REGION	1	2	3	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	10	11	12
DEVIATION	20.25	-2.18	7.15	9.13	15.46	6.46	.10	5.06	-.62	.70	-3.39	-1.92
EC REGION	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
DEVIATION	-3.97	-2.92	-3.02	-1.71	-2.88	-3.01	-3.70	-2.26	-5.55	-4.06	-3.73	3.39
EC REGION	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
DEVIATION	1.80	.14	-1.09	1.90	5.08	3.82	7.53	-3.51	-.17	1.20	-.63	7.98
EC REGION	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
DEVIATION	5.06	7.22	4.06	-.40	-.39	-3.08	3.96	-.87	1.39	-.84	-3.47	-1.75
EC REGION	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
DEVIATION	-2.59	-5.68	-4.37	-4.42	-5.94	-5.27	-5.67	-5.99	-5.70	-4.22	-4.97	-2.88

Commission of inquiry into riots among mine workers

*1 Dr A L BORAINE asked the Minister of Mines

(1) Whether the commission of inquiry into riots among mine workers has submitted its report if not, when is it expected that the report will be submitted, if so

(2) whether the report is to be laid upon the Table, if so, when

†The MINISTER OF JUSTICE (for the Minister of Mines)

(1) Yes

(2) No The contents of the report are in some respects of a sensitive nature, but I am prepared to make the report available to the hon the Leader of the Opposition on a confidential basis for perusal by him

(62)

913

Hansard 6 col 448 5/3/76

Botha refuses to table riot report

Rdm 8/3/76

By BERNARDI WESSELS
Political Correspondent

THE ASSEMBLY — The new Minister of Mines, Mr Fanie Botha, yesterday refused to table the report of the interdepartmental commission of inquiry into riots among mineworkers

Replying to a question by Dr Alex Boraine (PRP, Pinelands), the Minister said the contents of the report were "in some respects of a sensitive nature"

He was, however, he said, prepared to make the report available to the Leader of the Opposition, Sir De Villiers Graaff, on a confidential basis for perusal by him alone.

Dr Boraine said the Minister's reply was totally unacceptable and was a slap in the face for the democratic system because all MPs should have access to such a vital report

It was of no use to the Progressive Reform Party for the Minister to agree to make the report available to the Opposition Leader

"We now have no indication that the commission established the reasons for the disturbances or whether they have proposed ways and means to prevent further riots," Dr Boraine said.

Also in reply to Dr Boraine, the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development, Mr M C Botha, said only 100 copies of the report of the Snyman Commisson of Inquiry into Disturbances at the University of the North (Turfloop) had been printed

Unless there was a demand, no more would be printed.

The Minister said that "with a view to economising", a copy of the report had not been supplied to each MP

Asked whether steps would be taken to supply every MP with a copy, the Minister replied: "No, as the demand could be satisfied"

Dr Boraine then asked Mr Botha whether he was reconsidering the decision to have 100 copies of the report printed "It depends on the demand," said Mr Botha

Questions in the House

Riots report 'too sensitive'

Cape Times 6/3/76

THE MINISTER of Mines, Mr S P Botha, said yesterday that he was not prepared to table the report of the Commission of Inquiry into riots among Mineworkers because it was of a sensitive nature in some respects He said he was prepared to let the Leader of the Opposition, Sir De Villiers Graaff, study the report on a confidential basis He was replying to a question by Dr Alex Boraine (PRP, Pinelands) — Sapa

D

X per U.T.

RAND Daily Mail

MONDAY, March 8, 1976

Denying the public the right to know

YET AGAIN the Government has arrogantly shut the door to legitimate public inquiry by refusing to table the report of the commission of inquiry into riots among mine workers. And once again on a vague and flimsy excuse which this time says that the contents of the report "are in some respects of a sensitive nature".

But the snub to the public's right to information has in this instance been embellished with another sinister dimension The Minister of Mines, Mr Fanie Botha, is playing politics with it by deliberately denying the Progressive Reform Party access to the report while pointedly making it available to the leader of the Opposition, Sir De Villiers Graaff.

The growing Nat habit of failing to inform the public on vital issues is atrocious enough. How much more of a public disservice can it be when a Minister further abuses this failure by using it as a weapon to drive a wedge between the public and one of the country's legally elected parties?

Fortunately, the Government's frantic endeavours to destroy the patriotic credentials of the Progressive Reform Party — by continuously implying that it does not have the same rights to information as the Nats or the UP — can be seen for the hollow ploy that it is. And it is a ploy born out of fear of the PRP's growing body of support.

But the Nats are playing a game that can backfire dangerously when they try to cut off the rights of many thousands of South Africans who know that their eleven constitutionally elected Parliamentary representatives are democratically entitled to be as well briefed on matters of national concern as any other parliamentarians This is not the sole and divine right of the Nats and the UP.

Nor, in broader aspect, is it right that an anxious public should be debarred from knowing the causes — and what is to be done about them — of the riots and bloodshed that from time to time have rocked our mining industry and caused serious labour unrest.

While the Government stays silent on this and many other issues, it can only be because it knows that to give the answers means to expose separate development for the gigantic fraud that it is.

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(213)

F.M. 19/3/76

MINE VIOLENCE: A SUSPICIOUS SECRECY

Is there a rat smelling somewhere? Two, possibly three, important government reports have now become the victims of official secrecy What conclusion can be drawn other than that there is something government wants to hide?

- Earlier this month Minister of Mines Fanie Botha said in Parliament that the report of the inquiry into mine violence would not be made public
- At the end of January Bantu Administration Minister MC Botha refused to make public the report of a departmental inquiry into the migrant labour system He said it was for "official consumption" only

Since September 1973, when 12 men were shot dead by police at Western Deep Levels, at least 162 Black miners have died in violent incidents on the mines The mining industry tried to pass some of these off as "faction fights"

But the *FM*'s own investigations revealed that the fundamental cause was the migrant labour system itself, which herds thousands of men into the psychologically unhealthy and explosive environment of barrack-like compounds.

Now it seems this viewpoint has been vindicated by the mine violence inquiry. The *FM* understands that its report places the blame for the disturbances mainly on the migrant labour system It also apparently recommends that accommodation on the mines should be on a "non-ethnic" basis, and that the availability of liquor should be restricted

Criticism of the migrant labour system by its own interdepartmental inquiry would be a grave embarrassment to government, since migrant labour is crucial to its policy on Blacks in the common area

The policy has been widely criticised over the years, not least by the Dutch Reformed Church Now that further criticism has come from the horse's mouth there must be few in SA still prepared to defend the system Yet government seems hell-bent on pressing ahead with its wider implementation

The violence report has been shown to the mining industry. But this is not good enough The country at large has a right to know its contents in full The same goes for the Bantu Administration report into migrant labour

As if suppression of these two important documents were not enough, mystery surrounds a third study affecting Blacks in the common area? Has this too been suppressed?

In mid-1973, amid a blaze of Press publicity the then Deputy Bantu Administration Minister, Punt Janson, appealed to critics to "come forward with ways of improving the pass laws . I will welcome all positive constructive suggestions"

Organisations with expert knowledge like the Black Sash and the SA Institute of Race Relations sent in memoranda. The *FM* also took Janson at his word and submitted suggestions, which brought from Janson a letter of "sincere thanks"

What has happened to the investigation? At the beginning of 1975 Minister Botha told the House of Assembly that "no investigation is being conducted specifically into the reference book system." A week or two ago a further question in Parliament to M C Botha as to "what progress has been made with the investigation by his Department into the simplification and codification of the laws relating to Bantu?" elicited the response that codification was not being investigated.

So what's happened to Janson's much-trumpeted pass law study? Has this been quietly dropped or suppressed because unpalatable and embarrassing conclusions emerged?

RDM 19/4/76

Two die, more injured in mine faction fight

KLERKSDORP — Two unidentified African miners were killed in a faction fight between Basotos and Xhosas at the Buffelsfontein gold mine near Stilfontein yesterday.

It is believed the fight was sparked by an argument between miners at one of the hostels.

Iron bars, sticks and knobkieries were used, when the fight broke out among hundreds of miners. Several miners were injured and some mine property was damaged.

Police reinforcements were called and the fighters dispersed. Police units were put on standby, but it was thought last night that there would be no further fighting.

213

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STAR 21/4/76

Four die in new faction battle

Crime Reporter

Four men were killed and 14 injured when Xhosa and Basuto workers at Buffelsfontein mine, near Stilfontein, fought again last night.

The brawl brought the death toll to six. More than 30 have been injured, many critically. Only a third of the 3 800 men in the South Compound went underground today and police had to protect them against a small group who tried to enforce a strike.

Police with automatic rifles stood guard as miners trickled back to work this morning. The situation at the mine's South Shaft compound was tense and police reinforcements were due to be sent in today.

TEARGAS USED

Brigadier J J Hamman, commissioner for the Western Transvaal, said the fighting first broke out at 2 am on Sunday after a fist fight underground between Xhosas and Basutos.

The fight grew into a battle as the rival factions attacked each other with sticks, stones and knives. By the time police and the mine security force had quelled the rioters with teargas, two men were dead.

"The fighting flared up again last night after an argument between two indunas," said the brigadier.

Three of the men beaten to death last night were Basutos. The names of the dead have not been released.

213

SIX DIE IN MINE RIOTS

NM 22/4/76.

JOHANNESBURG — Six mineworkers have been killed and 25 others injured in riots at the Buffelsfontein gold mine at Stilfontein this week, General Mining and Finance announced yesterday.

Four of the men were killed and 12 injured last night in fighting between Basotho, Xhosa and Pondo workers.

The men went on shift as usual on Tuesday after one man had been killed and 13 injured on Sunday, following an incident in which a Xhosa worker was stabbed to death.

General Mining and Finance said mine police quelled both riots.

The dead men's names have not been released.—(Sapa.)

213

700 mine men to be sent home

STAR Labour Reporter 22/4/76.

About 700 Black mineworkers are about to be sent home from the Buffelsfontein Gold Mine after two faction fights in which six were killed and 30 injured

They are the men who stayed off work today at the 3 800-man South Shaft Hostel of the mine, where only a third of the workers went underground yesterday

Most of those due to leave are Basotho and most of their contracts had expired or were on the point of expiring, said a spokesman for General Mining

"The situation is under control and production is not expected to be materially affected," the spokesman said

Fighting between Xhosa and Basotho workers broke oue early on Sunday after a fist fight underground

213

Miners die in faction fight

DD

22/4/76

JOHANNESBURG — Six mineworkers have been killed and 25 others injured in faction fighting at the Buffelsfontein gold mine at Stilfontein this week.

Two men were killed and 13 injured on Sunday and four more were killed and another 12 injured when fighting flared anew on Tuesday night.

Only a third of the 3 800 workers in the mine's southern compound went underground yesterday and police had to protect them against a group who tried to enforce a strike.

Brig J. J. Hamman, Police Commissioner for the Western Transvaal, said the fighting broke out after an incident between Xhosas and Basothos.

The fight grew into a full-scale battle as rival factions attacked each other with sticks, stones and knives.

"The fighting flared up again after an argument between two indunas," he said.

Brig Hamman emphasised that the riots were a tribal affair. "Politics or wages did not enter the dispute."— SAPA

STAR 3/6/76

Miners refuse to go down

Miners at Western Holdings Gold Mine at Welkom, quelled by police last night after disturbances over pay, refused to go underground early today.

A spokesman for Anglo American said mine officials were talking to the men and there was little likelihood of further disturbances today.

The trouble started at about 8 pm last night but mine security men, assisted by police from Welkom, restored order by 10.30 pm.

The Anglo American spokesman said some miners had been slightly injured and windows at No 2 hostel — the scene of the disturbance involving several hundred men — had been broken.

The apparent reason for the trouble was dissatisfaction over recent pay rises.

The spokesman felt the rises had been misinterpreted by various sources.

~~STAR ? 2/6/76~~ ?

~~RDM ? 3/6/76~~ ?

~~started on 2/6/76~~

213

Miners in new unrest

STAR 9/6/76

Labour Reporter

Misunderstandings concerning the pay rise for Black mineworkers, announced last week, have been blamed for renewed unrest at a Free State gold mine.

Armed police fired tear-gas to quell rioting a the No 3 Shaft hostel of the President Brand Gold Mine last night

The disturbance followed similar outbreaks at the mine's No 4 Shaft hostel where some Blacks prevented others from going underground on Monday night and yesterday morning

About 300 Xhosa and Basotho workers from Nr. 4 have been sent home at their own request, a spokesman for Anglo American said today.

Last week 2 600 men refused to go underground at the Western Holdings Mine nearby. The problem was resolved almost immediately

213

Wage row at Brand gold mine is settled

RDM 10/6/76

THE situation at President Brand Gold Mine at Welkom was "back to normal" yesterday morning following disturbances on Tuesday night, a spokesman for the mine said yesterday.

"Almost the entire shift of Black workers went underground this morning," he said.

Police had to be called in on Tuesday night when only about half the shift workers went underground, and many others were prevented from doing so by dissidents.

"A misunderstanding about wage increases granted by the Chamber of Mines was responsible. This has now been resolved," said the spokesman.

Mine security officers assisted police in controlling the crowds of angry workers on Tuesday night. The trouble began at about 9 pm and dogs and tear gas had to be used.

"Money, money, we want money", they chanted as whistles were blown and there was a general uproar. One policeman was slightly hurt by a kierie blow on the head.

When some workers indicated they were prepared to go underground, police provided them with protection.

About 100 workers from No 3 Shaft have asked the mine management to be returned to their homeland. Most of them are Xhosas, and they have already left the mine. Yesterday 300 workers from No 4 shaft asked to go home. They were discharged. — Sapa.

213

214

150

Gold miners end dispute

Labour Correspondent

LAST night the Mine Workers' Union and management of the Lorraine Gold Mine reolved their dispute after a strike on Tuesday by 55 White mine workers. A fight between a White and an African mineworker sparked the dispute.

The White mine workers, who were back at work yesterday had refused to go underground unless the management took immediate disciplinary action against the African, who is said to have retaliated when assaulted by a White.

The issue, if handled wrongly, could have flared up with justice being claimed for the 55 White mine workers on one side and by the several thousand Africans working in the same shaft, on the other.

Neither man was seriously hurt. The White man is reported to have punched the African who picked up a wooden block and fought back.

There are tested procedures for settling issue relating to fights underground Usually a proper inquiry is held and the parties concerned and witnesses give evidence. Sometimes charges of assault are laid with the police.

The Mine Workers' Union representative claimed on Tuesday that their 55 members had not gone underground because of the danger of attack by Africans.

But the mine management discounted this.

Yesterday afternoon, the White Mine Workers' Union representative met the mine manager, Mr P. R. Wheeler,

The union had initially demanded immediate disciplinary action against the African mineworker, a Rhodesian. This was turned down

It is understood that in the talks last night the union asked for all complaints to be taken up by the mine management

Cape Times 14/7/76 (213)

Armed police on guard at mine after 8 killed

Wednesday

WELKOM. — Police kept a close watch at the St Helena gold mine yesterday after disturbances by small groups of miners turned into a vicious faction fight between hundreds of Xhosas and Sothos.

Eight Africans were killed and 38 injured in the fights which lasted several hours

Brigadier J F Rossouw, Divisional Commissioner of Police in the northern Free State, said yesterday none of the deaths or casualties was caused by police action

BODIES

Iron bars, sticks, stones and knobkieries were used in the fights The bodies of the dead were found when police units patrolled the hostel grounds.

There was little damage to mine property but attempts were made to set some buildings alight

Eleven miners were arrested

According to a statement by Union Corporation it has been alleged that the faction fight started late on Monday night after Sothos were threatened by Xhosas

About 550 Xhosas and Pondos at the mine's No 2 Shaft hostel have asked to be repatriated, but negotiations were held yesterday in an attempt to retain their services

On Sunday evening two small groups of Bacas and Pondos were involved in an altercation at the hostel They were quickly isolated and no other miners were involved

Two men were slightly injured and four arrests were made by police

On Monday morning the shift started as usual except for a higher number of absentees During the day about 80 Xhosas and 80 Pondos requested to be repatriated

Calm

Police later withdrew from the area and the situation was reported calm.

But on Monday night two large factions, who had not been involved in the previous disturbances at all, suddenly opposed one another

Police reinforcements were called

Armed units were on standby at the mine last night

All quiet at death-riot mine

Labour Reporter

Police were called off at St Helena gold mine last night as 550 Transkeians took trains home after tribal clashes in which eight were killed and 38 injured

A few more Transkeians are expected to leave today

Otherwise, said a mine spokesman, the situation in the 4 000-man No 2 [illegible] Hostel has returned to normal

The fighting, on Monday night, is said to have broken out after Transkeians threatened the more numerous Basotho and told them not to go to work

The alleged threats are said to have come after 160 Transkeians demanded to be sent home after trouble among two Transkeian factions

Two men were injured slightly in this trouble and four were arrested

14/7/76 STAR.

Six more miners die in fighting

Cape Times 20/1/76

JOHANNESBURG. — Six African mineworkers were killed in tribal fighting at the Kinross gold mine in the eastern Transvaal, a spokesman for Union Corporation said yesterday.

Fourteen Black miners were admitted to hospital, and an unknown number had minor injuries.

A fight broke out between a Basotho and a Xhosa and soon spread to other mineworkers. The mine riot squad restored calm without the help of the police, who stood by.

A quarter of the mine's 4 000-strong workforce failed to report to work yesterday, the spokesman said.

Eight Black mineworkers were killed and more than 30 injured in tribal fighting at the St Helena gold mine in the Free State last Monday night. — Sapa

(1) 213
(2) 219
(3) 150

Cape Times
17/7/76

Agreement ends gem cutting dispute

JOHANNESBURG. — The 10-week dispute in the diamond-cutting industry is over Workers reached agreement with employers yesterday and are to return to work on Monday.

Mr R Rich, general secretary of the union, said members accepted a new six-year wage agreement at a special general meeting in Johannesburg.

The employers guaranteed the workers pension, sick pay and unemployment benefits for 10 years.

The parties have agreed to a demarcation of 1,19 carats as the limit for diamonds to be processed by unskilled labour

Mr W A Davidson, secretary of the Master Diamond Cutters Association (the employers) said after a year either the union or the employers could ask for the demarcation limit of 1,19 carats to be reviewed by arbitration

In terms of the new wage agreement, skilled workers could not be retrenched except in specified circumstances outlined in the agreement

Mr Davidson added that the introduction of semi-skilled workers into the industry was justified economically — Sapa

Diamond cutters go back tomorrow

Sunday Times (Bus. Times) 18/7/76

By TONY KOENDERMAN

THE 10-week-old diamond cutting industry stoppage which has cost the industry some R30-million in lost production and 800 workers R1-million in wages has ended

As a result of a compromise agreement between the Master Diamond Cutters' Association and the Diamond Workers Union this week, the men go back to work tomorrow

The nub of the dispute has been the employers' wish to introduce cheap labour — semi-skilled Coloured and Indian operators — to process small diamonds

But the union, arguing that 60 per cent of the work done by its members is on diamonds smaller than the cut-off point originally proposed by the employers of 1 79 carats in the rough, refused to agree to operators semi skilled processing anything bigger than 0 89 carats in the roug

The employers then proposed bringing down the cut-off point to 1 39 carats, and now finally the two sides have agreed on a demarcation of 1 19 carats in the rough or 0 6 carats in the sawn state

This is subject to compulsory arbitration after 12 month if either side feels the agreement is not satisfactory

"If after 12 months we feel our earnings are being depleted or that operators are taking work from us, then we can ask for arbitration on the size of the stone" said union president Mick Geffin

The employers argue that they cannot develop a 'smalls' industry on the basis of high cost White labour If small diamonds are processed locally instead of being exported in their rough state it could be worth another R65 million a year in foreign earnings

A number of other protections are now offered to the employees in the new agreement

The main industrial agreement short time agreement and holiday bonus fund agreement have been made for six years

There have been increases in the minimum wage, from R60 to R75 a week and in the

o To Page 22

Diamond cutters dispute over

Star Times 18/7/76

• From Page 1

cost of living allowance from R40 to R75 a month

If a worker is placed on short time, the employer will be obliged to make up his earnings to 60 per cent of his previous pay rate.

Workers are also protected against retrenchment, except in stated conditions, which include fraud, theft or violence, poor quality work, absence from work without justifiable cause, and drunkenness on the job

If the Industrial Council feels a man has been retrenched unfairly, it can require his reinstatement.

The pension fund, sick pay, sick benefit and unemployment benefit fund agreements have been entrenched for 10 years.

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Sapa-Reuter and the Argus Correspondent.

See page 3.

Faction fight on mine

7/9/76 Argus

JOHANNESBURG — About 200 Basotho mineworkers of the Springbok Colliery near Witbank have been sent home after sporadic faction fighting this weekend.

Police had to intervene to restore order in the clashes between the Basotho and Xhosas. — Sapa.

213

OPPOSITION WILL DEMAND REPORT ON MINE VIOLENCE

Sun Trib 24/10/76

Tribune Reporter

THE OPPOSITION will press for the release of a Government report on mine violence — believed to be so alarming it has been kept secret for more than a year — when parliament reconvenes.

The report by an inter-departmental committee appointed by the then Minister of Mines, Dr Piet Koornhof, was instructed in mid-1975 to investigate the wave of mine violence which has disrupted the industry since 1972.

Opposition concern about the events is based on the continuing outbreaks of fighting and dissatisfaction that have occurred since the report was submitted to the Minister, and concern about whether a proper investigation and analysis was made which might link mine violence with the wave of unrest which has swept the country this year.

The report has so far not been tabled in Parliament and has been seen only by the Government and the Chamber of Mines.

Official figures show that at least 1 000 Black mineworkers were injured and at least 65 were killed in over 60 incidents of violence between 1973 and 1975.

Further incidents reported this year show at least 10 more men killed.

One immediate result of the mine riots was the repatriation of thousands of foreign mineworkers to their home countries — Malawi, Lesotho, Botswana and Mozambique — leading to a shortage of labour from which the mines are only now beginning to recover.

Dr Gideon Jacobs United Party Member for Hillbrow introduced a private members motion in parliament at the height of the violence calling for a commission of inquiry into the incidents.

This was turned down by the Government but the Minister of Mines appointed the inter-departmental committee which conducted an urgent inquiry, passing its report and findings to the Minister within two months.

Dr Jacobs said this week that he would be pressing for the contents of the report to be made known in the new parliamentary session.

213

9 die in mine fighting

JOHANNESBURG — Nine black miners died and an undetermined number were injured in bloody faction fighting in a hostel at the Impala platinum mine at Wildebeesfontein, near Rustenburg.

Police said reinforcements had rushed to the mine yesterday morning after the all-night fighting showed no signs of abating.

He said nine bodies had been discovered by noon, but the death toll could be much higher. At least 55 migrant workers had been injured.

The fighting had started in a shebeen then spread to the compounds with Xhosas and Pondos fighting Tswanas and Basotho.

The hostel had been patrolled on Sunday night but the situation had now been completely defused.

There had been a poor turnout for work yesterday but that was probably due to a lack of sleep on Sunday night. SAPA

(213)

More time off blamed for deaths

16/9/81

Labour Reporter

The fighting which killed nine black mine-workers at the Wildebeesfontein section of Impala Platinum, near Rustenburg, is the first associated with the shorter working week.

Of the injured fewer than 20 are said to have needed hospital treatment.

The fighting broke out at 6 pm on Sunday after black hostel dwellers dispersed to shebeens near the mine.

They had been off duty on Saturday and Sunday under a system by which each of the three Impala mines gets a five-day week every third week.

TURNOUT

Clashes continued throughout the night, but police reported today that everything had remained quiet since 11 am yesterday.

There was a poor turnout for work yesterday.

But most of the black work force were said to have reported for duty today.

The first outbreaks of fighting were said to be along non-tribal lines.

It is thought that tribal factions emerged later on.

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Tribal fight: few back at work

Star 17/11/76

Labour Reporter

Less than half the morning shift reported for work at Impala Platinum's Wildebeesfontein mine today, after yet another eruption of tribal fighting following nine earlier deaths

Police had to use tear-gas to disperse about 800 fighting men in the mine's hostel last night. Injuries were not ruled out, but no injured had come forward by about mid-morning.

The original fighting which broke out at a shebeen on Sunday evening, has developed into a tribal faction war involving Xhosas on the one side and Basotho and Tswanas on the other.

The mine's management is negotiating with more than 1 500 black workers who stayed from work today. An estimated 1 000 men refused to work yesterday.

It is understood that no specific demands have been made by the striking workers.

211

Hostel battle deaths

16/7/86 Undes

JOHANNESBURG — Nine African miners died and an undetermined number were injured in bloody faction fighting on Sunday night in a hostel at the Impala platinum mine at Wildebeesfontein, near Rustenburg.

A police spokesman said police reinforcements had been rushed to the mine yesterday morning when the fighting — which had raged all night — showed no signs of dying down.

He said nine bodies had been discovered by noon, but the death roll could be much higher. At least 55 migrant workers had been injured.

The fighting had started in a shebeen then spread to the compounds, he said, with Xhosas and Pondos fighting Tswanas and Basotho.

Shebeens

A Union Corporation spokesman said the fighting started about 6 p.m. in the African hostel.

The mine did not work on Saturdays and at the weekend numerous groups of men dispersed to shebeens in the surrounding areas.

"Some consumed an excessive amount of alcohol and serious fighting broke out."

The spokesman added: "This does not appear to have been on a tribal basis, but management is uncertain."

Nine men had died "and less than 20 were admitted to hospital."

The hostel had been patrolled on Sunday night, but the situation had now been completely defused.

There had been a poor turnout for work yesterday morning "but that was probably due to a lack of sleep on Sunday night." — (Sapa.)

211/204

10 die in mine fighting

JOHANNESBURG — Ten African miners died and an undetermined number were injured in bloody faction fighting on Sunday night in a hostel at the Impala platinum mine at Wildebeesfontein, near Rustenburg.

A police spokesman said police reinforcements were rushed to the mine yesterday morning when the fighting — which had raged all night — showed no signs of dying down.

He said 10 bodies were discovered by noon, but the death toll could be much higher. At least 55 migrant workers were injured.

The fighting started in a shebeen then spread to the compounds, he said, with Xhosas and Pondos fighting Tswanas and Basotho.

The mine did not work on Saturday and during the weekend "numerous groups of men dispersed to shebeens in the surrounding areas.

"Some consumed excessive amount of alcohol, as a result of which serious fighting broke out." — Sapa

213

Calm back at mine

RDM 18/11/86

Conditions are returning to normal at the Wildebeesfontein section of Impala Platinum mine, near Rustenburg, where fighting among black workers resulted in nine deaths last weekend.

A mine spokesman said today conditions at the mine continued to be peaceful and there was a rapid return to normal.

He said the number of men who had returned to work was satisfactory. About 2 500 reported for the morning shift today.

The spokesman said, however, that it would be difficult to replace the undetermined number of men who had returned to their homes for the rest of the year.

Fighting broke out at the mine when hostel dwellers dispersed to nearby shebeens.

(211) / 204 .

Miners stay away after weekend fights

JOHANNESBURG — Most of the African workers at the Wildebeesfontein platinum mine had still not returned to work yesterday, though conditions at the mine hostel were reported "quiet"

Nine mineworkers were killed when fighting flared at the hostel on Sunday

A statement issued by Union Corporation yesterday said that about 1 200 men went underground yesterday morning, out of a shift of 4 000

About a thousand workers had broken their service agreements and were going home

"Efforts are at present being made to re-establish the confidence of the others so that they will return to work," the statement says

"The South African Police are continuing to assist mine management to guard against any possible sporadic outbreaks of violence" — Sapa

(213)

Hundreds flee mine fighting

DD 19/11/87

GABORONE — Hundreds of Botswana miners have walked more than 200 km to the border from Rustenburg, Transvaal, fleeing from fighting which broke out at the Rustenburg platinum mine

Four were killed when a faction fight started at the Impala Platinum Mine between Xhosa and Basotho miners

Since Monday, Botswana miners trying to get away from the fight have been streaming down the road leading home.

A fleet of three trucks and a bus crossed the border yesterday to pick up 74 straggling miners, many unable to walk further.

At least 300 miners are known to have arrived in Gaborone.

Miners, many of whom have been on the road for the last three days, said they left to get away from fighting between Xhosa and Basotho. Anyone not speaking Xhosa was in danger, they said.

The Botswana labour representative in South Africa reported from the mine yesterday that the situation was quiet. — DDC.

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MINE VIOLENCE FIN. MAIL

Chilling death toll 29/10/76

Rising economic costs are a recurring theme in mining company chairmen's statements A chilling reminder of the cost in human lives comes in a report to be released next week by the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU) at the University of Cape Town

Since September 1973, when 12 Black miners were shot dead by the police in a disturbance at Western Deep Levels, the known death toll in violent disturbances has risen to 192 The number of men injured is nearly 1 300

Financial Mail October 29 1976

The Tenant

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FIN. MAIL 5/4/76 (213)

CITY DEEP COMPOUND

Last week's *FM* carried a photograph taken in Rand Mines' City Deep compound with a caption "seven outbreaks of violence". This was an inadvertent error The seven outbreaks were not at City Deep, but at ERPM, also part of the Rand Mines group

Rand Mines' City Deep compound . . . seven outbreaks

The compilers of the report, Dudley Horner and Alide Kooy, chronicle 66 separate "incidents" on the gold, coal, platinum, and copper mines. Some mines have been particularly badly affected. Rand Mines' ERPM and AAC's Western Deep have each had seven outbreaks of conflict

The report does not examine the possible causes of the violent disturbances in any great detail The mining industry has generally tried to pass them off as "faction fights", but this easy answer is open to very serious question. A government commission of enquiry was reliably reported to have found that the underlying cause of conflict was the migratory labour and compound system Significantly, the government has kept the report secret.

The SALDRU report suggests that there may be a link between the disturbances and the dangerous conditions under which miners work. Between 1936 and 1966 no fewer than 19 000 men, 93% of them Black, died in mine accidents In 1972-75 there were 2 993 accidental deaths and 110 169 serious injuries.

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Star 14/12/76

Security at mine to be probed

The Department of Mines will hold an inquiry into security at Crown Mines, where a cache of explosives was found by the Security Police

Delayed-action detonators, fuses and 46 sticks of dynamite were found near a shaft on the mine

The Government Mining Engineer in Johannesburg, Mr N Orsmond, said "we normally look into a thing like that."

He said he had not been told to look into the security of other mines "The other mines have nothing to do with this," he added.

"There will be an inquiry to find out exactly what happened in this case and if we find there is anything that we can do in future which might be of any help to other mines we will apply that," said Mr Orsmond.

A spokesman for Crown Mines said its security "was under control and we are quite satisfied with our precautions."