

JANUARY 2000

Sun 2

As the New Year turned, in Cape Town, former president Mandela, inside the cell he occupied on Robben Island, handed a lighted candle to his successor. Mr Mbeki then handed the candle to a young child, as Mr Mandela said, “the freedom flame can never be put down.”

Mon 3

Speaking, as one who had been reprieved from a death sentence, D Khumolo; one of the Sharpville Six (qv), has voiced the opinion that the compensation recommended by Truth Commission is not enough.

Earlier the government had agreed to pay R150, 000 to 22,000 victims of the apartheid regime. The money was to have been sufficient to pay for homes, education and the medical expenses of the claimants. As of this moment only 8, 000 people have each received R2000.

Wed 5

As could be anticipated, following the disclosure that Angolan troops had been given permission to chase Unita rebels across the border (qv 21/12) into Namibia, troops loyal to Jonas Savimbi have been accused of killing two French nationals in an ambush on their vehicle as they were traveling near the Capavari Strip. People wearing military style clothing carried out the incident, which occurred on 1/1. Rebel forces, naturally, indicated that the attack was the responsibility of forces of the Angolan military.

Swaziland’s parliamentary speaker, who was asked to resign for taking cow dung from the royal yard, insisted that he did so in order to protect the king.

Mgabhi Dlamini told a meeting of the Swaziland National Council that he was warned in series of dreams that King Mswati the Third was in danger and took the dung – associated with witchcraft – to perform a ritual of protection. – *Reuters* –

Thurs 6

Police have made 171 arrests, but only after 3 members of the Amavele from Bizani and 3 members of the Amadela from Flagstaff had been killed in the clashes. The two tribal groups were over the extent of the authority of the local headman; Chief Faku.

Those detained have been charged with murder and attempted murder. They were all jailed in the few cells that are available in this area of the Eastern Cape.

Fri 7

Traditional medicine, now being looked on increasing favour by the hard stretched government authorities, has come in for a certain amount of criticism recently following a number of fatalities during tribal initiation ceremonies in the Eastern Cape.

Over the last few months a total of 10 young Xhosa boys have died from infection and blood loss following circumcise by the use of inappropriate instruments. In the more remote regions of the Transkei region parents will pay about R200 to a local medicine man. This is because to have the measure carried out in a far distant hospital is too expensive. At these local ceremonies the sagoma will sometimes use the same cutting too for each child, thus risking infection from person to person.

Sat 8

On the eve of the implementation of the trade agreement, hammered out in 1999 with the European Union (qv 11/10) Italy has stated it will not ratify the deal unless further concessions are made by the regime in Pretoria.

The product that is now causing concern to the Italian authorities is the liqueur 'grappa' of which they produce 40m bottles per year. Under the same name, producers around Meerlust Cape Town, bottle 30,000 bottles of the product.

The Italians are fighting for the exclusive use of the name, as are the Greek producers of the spirit 'ouzo' who introduced this demand 24 hours afterward 's.

Sun 9

Following the recent moves against the pro Muslim group. People Against Drugs and Gangsterism (qv 30/12), only a small part in the rise in the number of cases of urban terrorism, authorities in Pretoria are preparing to introduce legislation that gives the police greater powers. If these new laws are of little significance, the government may choose to amend the constitution.

The minister of state security, Steve Tswete, is to introduce a series of measures that give the police greater powers to search, seize and detain suspects for 48 hours. During this initial period of detention there would be little recourse to legal representation. The minister also said the changes would introduce penalties against those "who refuse to co operate."

This legislation strikes at the heart of the policy of the ruling ANC party; where there is pro and anti views. Despite these misgivings, the mechanism to amend the Bill of Rights within the constitution is in place. After the 1999 general election the ANC, who won an increase in parliamentary representative, just short of the required number, to bring these changes about, and the Minority Front Party; who represents people of Asian decent and has the numbers to give the government the required seats, went into coalition.

Mon 10

South Africa's longest serving foreign minister, Pik Botha, has joined the ANC and he urges others in a similar mind to join him.

Whilst on a visit to the country, to see her son Mark, the former British prime minister Lady Thatcher made an unannounced visit to the office of Thabo Mbeki.

Wed 12

Hopes have risen for 11 miners trapped underground 100 miles south west of Johannesburg. Mine owners, African Rainbow Minerals, recently bought by a black" empowerment" company, say that contact has been made with one of those trapped.

Since the rock fall, on 10/1, progress has been such that the miner contacted has detailed the situation underground; 4 miners have died, 5 are still unaccounted for and 6 are still alive.

Cape Town council has threatened to sue Virgin Airlines for changing street signs while recording a television advert. The airline wanted to emphasise the extra legroom on its long haul service to South Africa.

To do this they were going to change Long Street into 'Longer Street' without council permission. With no council go ahead the company pasted over the original signs anyway.

Thurs 13

Efforts to limit the sale of illicit diamonds from Angola (qv 18/12) are at the interim report stage. Investigations done by Mr R Fowler, Canada's representative to the United Nations, is expected to be published within the next seven days. It will show that one of the main purchasers of illicit diamonds, mined by the Unita rebels, in the Ukraine.

At the same time a report, Sierra Leon Diamonds and Human Security, published by Partnership Africa Canada calls for more support for the 'fingerprinting' of diamonds. This will record the origins of the stones.

Fri 14

With assistance from across the country the gold mine owned by African Rainbow Minerals (qv 12/1) has been inundated with rescuers ready to help the rescue operation.

At the end of four days work underground, in which 300 tones of earth has been moved, nine miners have been rescued alive. The fate of another two, who are seriously injured, is not known.

Sat 15

Obituary Alfred Nzo, 1925 – 2000, Mr Nzo came to prominence, during the negotiations that led up to the release of Nelson Mandela in 1990.

At the first legal ANC Congress to be held in the country, since the movement was banned, in the city of Durban in 1991, he was elected the National Executive as a recognition of all he had achieved overseas when working for the external wing of the movement. One of his responsibilities was as deputy head of security. During the years 1993/4 he was a member of the intelligence sub committee associated with the workings of the TEC's.

Following the 1994 general election he gained enough votes, being 49th on the ANC's approved list, to retain his post as a member of parliament, and at the behest of the president Mr Mandela, again, became minister of foreign affairs.

Following the second general election, despite retaining his position in parliament, failed to gain a seat at Mr Mbeki's cabinet table.

Sun 16

Two of the largest National Parks, within South Africa's borders, Kruger and the Kalahari Gemsbok that abut to the Banhini – Gonarezhou and the Gemsbok National Parks in eastern Mozambique and Botswana respectively are to have their artificial borders torn down.

The two Transfrontier Conservation Areas will be known as Peace Parks. There are plans for at least another five TCA's throughout southern and central Africa. The idea came from a British biologist, J Hinks, who studied the way migratory animals traveled the countryside. His observations noted that artificial borders hindered the natural movement of the animals.

The conservation authorities of the countries involved will manage these vast areas – a landmass with an area larger than the country of Belgium –. The revenues received, from tourism, etc, will be ploughed back into the business. This will mean that the scheme will enable for a growth in employment – something that is badly needed in South Africa.

Critics of these new Peace Parks, who say that to tear down border posts will allow more illegal immigrants into the country, need not fear – there are more than enough predators in the wild to take care of those seeking to sneak into South Africa.

Tues 18

Robben Island, a focal point for reconciliation, mainly from the point of view of the white South African. From apartheid's prison, at the end of 1996, to museum at the beginning of 1997, and with only a three million pound budget.

Wed 19

Using the custom of parliamentary privilege the foreign office minister, P Hain, has named three companies that are breaking the internationally agreed embargo against the Unita rebels fighting in Angola.

Mr Hain named J K Lemaire, a Belgian national, who flew diesel fuel into Unita controlled airstrips. The plane used was either a Boeing 707 or a Caravelle, which used to take off from Zaire. After this was stopped a strip in South Africa was the chosen place of origin. Another who brought fuel to the rebels was T Teixeira a Portuguese South African, the chairman of the Central African Mining company. A Ukraine national, Victor Bout, with the help of his Cess air transport company brought weapons and other military equipment to the rebels.

Thurs 20

Reporting to the Angolan sanction committee (qv 13/1) the Canadian envoy R Fowler detailed how arms shipments were flown into Unita held territory and paid for with diamonds mined from rebel worked mines. Tenders were placed in eastern Europe and once the agreement was reached with the supplier, the hardware was flown in to rebel held territory. Payment with diamonds was then made.

Evidence was also supplied to the United Nations security council that has confirmed the internationally held belief that Jonas Savimbi should be indicted as a war criminal. At the same time as gathering details of the use of illicit diamonds the Canadian diplomat brought back video taped interviews with former members of Unita's military command. In these taped interviews the former rebels tell of the orders, from their leader, to shoot down any plane within reach of our guns. These happened to two planes belonging to the United Nations World Food programme, who were supplying food to the hungry Angolan population. In all there were 23 deaths when the planes were brought down in 1999.

South Africa's first black national police commissioner, J Selebi, faces a charge of intimidating a subordinate, days after being urged to undergo counseling for calling a female sergeant a chimpanzee.

The Beelb newspaper said the charge was made by Sergeant J Mabelane, who claimed he was called into the commissioner's office and confronted about a dispute between their families, reportedly over claims that Mr Selebi's uncle had stolen corn from Mr Mabelane's farm. – *Reuters* –

Sun 23

News item, despite the agreed trade agreement with the European Union (qv 8/1) the amount of support from Greece and Italy is causing concern in Pretoria. The government has decided that the contentious issue of the names of grappa and ouzo, common to all

three grape-producing countries, is worth taking a stand against. It is a case of the 'little man' not giving in to 'big brother producer.' – **Radio 2 4pm** –

Mon 24

With the help of the Johannesburg Sunday Times, a mother and daughter separated by the race classification laws from a previous era, have been united.

Ms S Laig, taken from her white parents at the age of 10, and living in Piet Retief, had a darker skin than her mother and father also had the tightly curly hair more associated more associated with the indigenous population. To the conservative residents of this Afrikaner backwater, and officials, this sealed her fate – she was reclassified as a 'non white.'

After six years of hardship she left to live with a Zulu speaking family led by P Zwane. Returning to the family home with her son, in 1973, she was shunned by both her mother and father. They were not pleased to see her – her father threatened to shoot her if she ever visited again.

Authorities could give her a white identity card, but this would mean she could no longer be a mother to her two children or live with her husband. During the next nine years she spent time being reclassified as Coloured so that she could legally live with her children and her husband.

Contact with her mother resumed in 1988, after the death of her father, but there was no details of her whereabouts until the newspaper wrote a feature about her plight. With the help of the police records the mother was traced to a retirement home in the Pretoria area.

Wed 26

Formulated in 1999, the Employment and Equality Bill (qv 8/10), has passed through its stages in parliament and is about to go on the statute book. The bill will make it illegal to discriminate on the grounds of race, sexual orientation, ability or language. Employees who feel the need to seek redress can seek redress through the newly set up 'equality courts.' The onus is on the employer to provide evidence that there has been no such discrimination.

Critics of the bill, the Democratic Party, say that the law is unjust as the government has the right to chose who is trained to work in the new body.

Fri 28

With the prospect of new regulations, first promulgated in 1999, the Taxi Association (qv 5/11) have mounted a demonstration outside an exhibition center in the northern suburbs of Johannesburg. The 400 drivers and their vehicles were there to protest at an exhibition

of the type of vehicle that the authorities want to see replace the favoured transport from township to city.

If the authorities have their way, 85,000 of these larger bustles will replace some 260,000 minibuses. These new vehicles will also be monitored electronically, to set a safe driving speed, some 10,000 passengers die every year, and warn when the bus needs to be maintained.

Officials of the Association were angry that many of their drivers would lose their jobs. Outside the venue there was issued a memorandum that warned the government that if they did not rescind these new regulations within 14 days the protests organised would become more disruptive and violent.

A judge in Johannesburg has jailed a group of six men to a total of 1000 years for a campaign of terror, including rape, of a group of eight women. Other crimes carried out against the women, all known to those jailed, was house breaking assault and robbery Victim and jailed lived in Thembisa township.

Sat 29

For want of R10m, in the form of sponsorship, the county's National Symphony Orchestra has been forced to disband. Without the support of South Africa's National Arts Council, budget R25m, appeals for more funding has fallen on deaf ears.

The demise of the orchestra can be dated from 1997, when the South African Broadcasting Corporation underwent reorganaisation, as well as being a major sponsor of the NSO. Some people were unhappy that there was too much emphasis on a different style of music; black encouraged by the government should be performed. Management sent performers into the townships, some of who were not happy to be doing so.

There are three other professional orchestras in the country, in Cape Town, Durban and Pretoria who receive state and council funding only. At this time the Cape Town Philharmonic has warned that it may have to close if there is not a sudden injection of funds.

Britain underwrites to Southern Africa 1995 to date

COUNTRY	INQUIRIES	VALUE £m	ISSUED	LIABILITY £m
ANGOLA	4	6.20	NIL	NIL
LESOTHO	9	349.2	6	9.1
MOZAMBIQU	1	6	00.00	00.00
S' AFRICA	12.9	8,455.6	5	267.1
SWAZIL'ND	3	61.0	00.00	00.00

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FEBRUARY 2000

Sun 6

Ten years on from the momentous decision of the then president, F W de Klerk, to legalise the ANC and the other opponents of the apartheid regime (qv 2/2) and days later the release of Nelson Mandela from jail. To mark the occasion the former president is soon to open a museum, built in his honour in his home province; Eastern Cape.

What of other 'notables,'? de Klerk who is in London with the message for all South Africans "to compare what was good in the old South Africa with what is wrong in the new South Africa is a false and erroneous comparison." The last apartheid regime leader also thinks that it is time to put a limit on 'black empowerment' because to many skilled, that is white people, are losing their jobs. Many people will dismiss his ramblings as he is seen as South Africa's Gorbachev; done his bit and now is consigned to history.

Whilst British politicians see a rosy future for the ANC led government, Peter Hain, a foreign office minister, political exile, anti apartheid campaigner et al, home grown intellectuals does not. A columnist on the Financial Mail. I Mahabane, identifies problems ahead for the ANC, see 10 years ago as the be all and end all for South Africans, in its refusal to allow itself to turn from a liberation movement into a political party.

University educated Mr Mahabane is not typical of his countrymen, for every one of 'him' there are ten others of a similar age who are still unemployed after at least the last ten years.

If the Financial Mail's columnist can better speak for the ordinary citizen rather than de Klerk, who has lost his audience, Hain, who speaks to the converted, then an example could be Rose Sonto aged 47. It was Mr Sonto who drove Mr Mandela from the Victor Vesta jail to Cape Town. The leader of the ANC was chauffeured by an executive member of the United Democratic Front's Western Cape in a Toyota Cressida. Then having just graduated through the ranks of the ANC's Youth Congress in the Western Cape, he is now, ten years on, living in a white suburb of Cape Town with a wife and three children and unemployed

South Africa's Department of Health start voluntary testing of schoolchildren for HIV in an effort to gauge how fast the disease is spreading. – IOS. Page 2, C 7 -

Thurs 10

Across a whole swathe of southern Africa, over the last few days, 17 inches of rain has fallen. The damage caused was such that at least 50 people have died throughout the region and thousands of acres of farmland has rendered useless, because of floodwater.

Although there will be no long-term damage, in the short term thousands of homes have been washed away. The population will be at risk from water borne diseases, such as cholera. In what are said to be the worst floods to effect the area, since 1958, a number of tourists are trapped in their luxury game lodges in the Kruger National Park.

Sat 12

Ten years on from the Mandela release and the former president is in his home village at a ceremony to unveil a plaque at the hut that he spent much of his formative years. The site, in the village of Qune, is one location of a three centre museum dedicated to the life of Nelson Mandela.

Also in Qune will be a youth and heritage centre. There also will be an exhibition centre in the regional capital of the Transvaal of Umtara.

Mon 14

The newspaper interpretation of a picture appearing, and according to the Human Rights Commission, portraying the useless life of the black person in a 1999 edition of the Johannesburg Sunday Times* (qv 23/11) could lead to the jailing of the newspapers editor. The same fate could befall his opposite number of the Mail and Guardian, as both the papers carried the story. The two are summoned to appear before the Commission with all the relevant documents – minuets of meeting held etc.

The editor of the Mail and Guardian, P van Niekerk, said that he was unlikely to obey the summons as he had already written to the HRC with his explanation. He was annoyed that they had not had the decency to acknowledge his submission. * authors note, or Star

Tues 15

All in all as, well as the two newspaper editors from Johannesburg (qv 14/2) who have been summoned to appear before the Human Rights Commission, two based in Cape Town have also been called to account for their papers coverage of race related issues.

Leader Comment **A painful reminder, South Africa's press is threatened again.** With the event of the 1994 general election fresh in the mind it was thought that the press would be allowed a 'level playing field' to report on issues as they felt fit. This summons to the four newspapers is seen as a dangerous move if the intention of the Mbeki government is to stick to the principals of a free press.

With the African National Congress only one seat short of the two-thirds majority needed to alter the constitution, some would seek this opportunity to turn a multi party democracy into dictatorship.

“But the current vendetta against the South African press, including a paper which fought so hard against apartheid, is a bad omen. It suggests a new regime which is taking a few too many lessons from the old.”

Wed 16

Notwithstanding the fact that four newspaper editors, from Johannesburg, (qv 14/2) have been called to give evidence before the Human Rights Commission, it has now been revealed that nine other journalists have treated in a similar way. Those called include the editor of the Cape Times, and the editor of the Cape based Afrikaner language Die Burger.

Among the journalists is the station manager from Radio 786, a Muslim community station based in the western Cape. The HRC, in this specific case has detailed the charge, that one specific headline in 7/99 “Angola finds 90 bodies.” According to the commission the stations report on the Angolan civil war concentrates on the collective of black people, rather than treating the dead as individuals.

Although the nine journalists are likely to forgo the call to appear before the commission as their lawyers said the subpoenas conflict with the notion of a free press enshrined in the constitution.

Thurs 17

The country's top political correspondent, during the apartheid era, has revealed that during that time he was working for the intelligence service. Following the multi racial elections in 1994 he continued in the same vein.

The revelation, from Mr. C Saunders, is all part of his campaign to force the present government to pay him at least half of the R50, 000 expenses that the television journalist says that he is entitled to.

One of the detailed cases that Mr. Saunders was involved in was when he recruited Ms Janie Allen (qv) to spy on the workings of the Inkatha Freedom Party. At a later time Ms Allen lost a libel action against Channel 4 which alleged she had had sex with the leader of the right wing Afrikaner Resistance Movement.

Fri 18

At a meeting between Thabo Mbeki and the head of the European Commission, R Prodi, the South African president has signed the bi lateral trade agreement between the two that has been in the offing ever since the end of the apartheid era.

The 12 year deal, had been delayed, most recently (qv 8/1), as Commission member states were unhappy that the spirit grappa was a shared liquor.

Using, once again parliamentary privilege, the minister of state for Africa P Hain has named 5 others who are involved in smuggling in Angola (qv 19/1). Those named will be passed to the Canadian diplomat, R Fowler, who has been charged by the United Nations to end the smuggling operations of the rebel Unita movement.

Those named were; D Zollan who shipped \$4m worth of Unita mined diamonds from his base in Rundu in Namibia. At the same time he is accused of paying a retainer to Namibian officials for 'turning a eye' to the illegal trade. The brother, Maurice, is accused of a similar operation with a base in South Africa, where the pilot H Steyn assisted him. Jan Joubert is known to have supplied diesel fuel to the rebel's base in Andulo, from Jouberts base near Gaborone in Botswana, where the fifth man stored it. J Coghlan

Taxi drivers smashed windscreens and pulled passengers from vehicles in South Africa yesterday in a protest against planned reforms to their industry. The drivers caused such huge jams in Johannesburg during the demonstration against President Mbeki's plan to force independent operators to trade in about 126,000 aged minibuses for 85,000 larger, purpose built vehicles.

Hundreds die in taxi crashes every year and about 1,5000 have been killed in wars over the best routes. – *Reuters* -

Wed 23

To add to the flood chaos (qv 10/2) that has hit southern Africa a tropical storm, Eline, has caused further damage to the capital of Mozambique and the coastline. There have been at least 100 deaths and countless losses to the countries tourist industry.

A schools minister, from the Johannesburg region; on his way to a school sports day has, at the insistence of a worried parent, visit a township shebeen and remove pupils that were 'becoming out of hand.' In response the local mayor has said that he will make it difficult for the drinking club to retain its drinks license.

An experiment, by J and D Varty, who run Conservation Corporation Africa, plan to return two tiger cubs to the wilds of Africa if it can be established that they will survive. In the short term the cubs will be monitored as they develop in favourable conditions. They will be checked constantly to see if they can survive the African parasite and feed and defend themselves.

Fri 24

With the promise of another tropical storm, Felicia, forecast for the central and southern region of Mozambique, already extensively suffering from flood damage, the president has appealed for international aid. The current death and destruction has left 160 dead, 30,000 homeless and another 800,000 affected in some other way.

The United Nations says that the region will need eight million pounds will be needed for emergency food and medical supplies and to supply basic shelter to rebuild the countries infrastructure. Member nations of the European Union have already pledged one million pounds.

Sun 27

As the majority of the Angolan population continue to face massive disruption to their lives because of the on going civil war, the politicians and the top echelons of the military establishment are living 'protected' lives thanks to the generosity of the worlds oil companies.

Many of these global companies; Texaco, BP - Amoco, Elf, Chevron and Exxon have paid huge sums to the Luanda government to secure their right to extract the oil that is known to be under the seabed, in the Atlantic. What is most exciting at this time is that the 14 new exploration sites are to be found 1000 meters under the sea, in water that is 1,5000 meters deep. Previously oil from this known field, since the 1950's, has come from much shallower waters.

The Angolan state oil company, Sonagol, has received \$300m for three new areas of exploration. These went to the French owned Elf, American owned Exxon and the British BP – Amoco, three of the 27 multi nationals who are committed to staying Seven years earlier 34 concession areas, 5,0000 square km, were auctioned off for only \$10m each.

Mon 28

With the 'racism' hearings before the Human rights Commission (qv 15/2) due to start within 48 hours the pictures and writings that try and justify the commissions case have been detailed.

The evidence has come from a 200 page report, written by C Braude, will be used against, the now 30, journalists that have been called to explain their writings. The report is broken down into three main parts;

[1] White Supremacist Narratives of South Africa in Transition; 12 pages of coverage from Die Afrikaner that peddles the Jewish Holocaust denial theory, from a nationalistic view point. This section also covers Radio Pretoria's pro apartheid leanings.

[2] Racialisation of news in mainstream coverage in South Africa; one week's news coverage, in 6/99. Purports to show the government in a bad light, with media interest in overcrowded hospitals and fresh budget cuts.

[3] The Media Monitoring Project a mish mash of media stories that allegedly reinforces the black stereotype.

“Are we asking for too much when we say the media must uphold the dignity of the people it purports to serve”? – **T Mazwat, Mafube publisher** -

“I call on the editors to defy the subpoenas served on them by the Human Rights Commission en bloc. By appearing before the HRC, they will give credence to a discredited organisation that has failed to carry out its mandate effectively since its inception in 1995”. – **R Kadalie; edited from an article in the Mail and Guardian**] –

Tues 29

Not wishing to be seen to be breaking the spirit of the constitution when it speaks of the ‘freedom of the press’, the Human Rights Commission has withdrawn a number of subpoena’s, 90, that had been served on newspaper editors and other journalists. They had all been requested to appear and explain their stance on racism (qv 16/2).

In a further move 10 newspaper editors are to meet with members of the HRC to try and take the adversarial nature of the hearings, and putting dialogue in its place.

MARCH 2000

Wed 1

According to one who was a journalist on the Cape Times, in the 1980's the current row about the attitude of the press; is it still racist in nature? is in reality the ANC trying to ensure that the media follow the government line without any criticism.

Leader Comment, **Mozambique's agony, an immense calamity** A pitiful response as the country with the fastest growing economy, according to President Clinton, it barely seems possible that the events of the past few days have occurred.

The floods that have ravaged the central and southern regions of this country; settled now after 25 years of civil war will once again become beholden to the international community, first to help with the rescue of the thousands of the population that need to be rescued from the floods. To follow this, with next years crops not yet, and unlikely to be, planted the Maputo government will have to seek cash and food aid to stop the country sliding into turmoil once again. This at a time when the international moneylenders canceled a large part of Mozambique's debt.

The response of the international community has been poor, so far, something that will have to be addressed as changes to the world climate have increased the chances of disasters affecting the poorer nations of the world.

“If we do not we are destined to see more and more of the kind of harrowing pictures of human misery, destruction and death now coming out of the stricken Limpopo valley.”

Sun 5

Despite the well documented evils of apartheid one facet of the doctrine has left the world a better place; albeit at the expense of the black musicians that thrived in the townships over the last 50 years.

The recently discovered hoard of recordings, from the studios of the South African Broadcasting Corporation of the different ethnic styles of music, whether it be in the Sotho, Zulu or Venda style, will now be brought into the international community of music.

These discoveries by A Kershaw, a BBC disc jockey and expert on world music will be globalised by Eagle Records with the release of a 5 CD set of discs under the title of African Renaissance. Profits from the sale, of this 'roots music' which has been popularised by Paul Simon and the singing group Lady Smith Black Mambazo, will be split two ways. Half the money will benefit the relatives and family of the township

performers. The rest will go towards an organisation that will support the new talent that is emerging in South Africa.

Wed 8

Obituary Esme Goldberg, 6. 7. 29 – 22. 2. 2000 The wife of a Rivoena trialist, Denis, who herself was detained and held for 38 days in a Cape Town jail. Fled to London, where she capitalised on 1960's training as a physiotherapist to earn a living to support her two children

At the same time she took on a speaking role for the Anti Apartheid movement that took her throughout the country.

Sun 12

For the first time ever an anti government demonstration has been allowed to proceed through the streets of the Angolan capital, Luanda, without any police harassment. The trouble free demonstration, supported by all seven of the countries seven opposition parties was in protest at the astronomical price rise of fuel and petrol four weeks ago.

With the removal of various subsidies there has been a 1500 % rise in the price of petrol. This takes the price up from 2. 6p a litre to 43p. These increases comes at a time when the government has just received additional revenue from the international oil companies (qv 27.2)

Mon 13

A leaked United Nations security council report from the Angolan Sanctions Committee, to be published within 72 hours, has concluded that many officials and countries Togo, South Africa and Belgium have aided the officials of the Unita movement to move freely around the world and pursue its policy of diamonds for guns to enable the rebel Angolan forces to carry on with the civil war in Angola.

Tues 14

With the evidence collected by the author, mainly from those who have defected from the Unita movement, the UN's security councils Angolan Sanctions Committee (qv 13/3) officials feel that there is enough evidence to charge Jonas Savimbi with murder as a result of the 20 plus years of the civil war in Angola.

More specifically the charges would relate to the deaths of aid workers that were killed when a missile destroyed a plane carrying food aid that was being operated by UN's World Food Programme. Also the head of Unita 's diamond smuggling operation; M Dachala, should be put on Interpol 's 'most wanted list.'

Not only does the report name individuals, countries are also targeted. For countries that are suspected of helping the rebels obtain weapons, fuel or were used to sell illegally mined diamonds a limited array of penalties must be paid. They should not be allowed to profit from these illegal benefits.

One example is Bulgaria, suspected arms supplier, may have its application to join the European Union rejected. Belgium; its diamond industry blacklisted for 3 years. Togo, the venue for this years annual gathering of the Organisation of African Unity withdrawn.

The next moves for the consideration of the report, compiled with the help of the Canadian diplomat, R Fowler, is an imminent debate by the members of the UN's security council, followed by one by the general assembly, in 4/2000 which will make binding recommendations to the international community.

Fri 17

Debt campaigners and the government of Mozambique said yesterday they were sorry that western credit countries had not written of the flood stricken country's loans.

At a meeting on Tuesday, the Paris club of aid donors instead said it was freezing until May the repayment it owed on \$800m. – GDN, page 19 –

Sat 18

Guided by the thinking of the American bio chemist D Ranski, who is based at the University of California, President Mbeki is to call together an international specialists to examine the Americans claim that Aids is not caused by the HIV virus. The view held by some American scientists is that the disease is caused by, among other things, the use of recreational drugs in the West and malnutrition in Africa.

Although many scientific experts have condemned this move, by the South African president, many other experts' claim that Mr Mbeki has an ulterior motive. This is to show the rest of the world that such is the power of the wealthy drug manufacturers that they can stop the production of a cheaper form of the powerful ATZ drug that suppresses the virus in babies of infected women (qv 5/9).

In Cape Town the number of tourists asking at the city's tourism information centre for the whereabouts of the 'red light district' has seen the centre's director, S Ozinsky, put forward the idea that 'sex tourism' should become part of the city scene.

To regulate what is already operating would make the business safer, for the prostitutes and their clients. The working girls would face regular medical examinations, if they wanted to stay licensed, and clients would be protected in an obvious way. Both sides of the business could work in a safe environment.

To further the aims of putting this type of option onto the holiday circle a pressure group, the Sex Worker Education Advocacy Task force will convene a conference later to discuss all aspects of this issue.

Sun 19

Following the completion of the report, commissioned by the United Nations security council's Angola Sanctions Committee (qv 14/3), much criticism has been heaped on it. Officials from inside and outside Angola have noted a number of faults.

With his 10 man team the author, the Canadian diplomat, R Fowler, had a \$1m budget to uncover the truths behind Unita's guns for diamonds policy. Evidence was gathered from 30 countries. However the bulk of the written work, 80%, was completed when the Canadian visited Angola's capital (qv 20/1). Also the workings of Unita were gathered from only five former members of the rebel movement. "Nobody in their right mind would believe anything those defectors said," was the reaction from a senior UN humanitarian official in Luanda. Also criticised was the level, and competence of the investigators to gather effective intelligence, as all were diplomats. There was not a professional intelligence gatherer among them.

Thurs 23

Claims in the book, 50 Years of Special Operations, by S Dorril that the former president Nelson Mandela was an agent of the British Secret Service, MI5 have been dismissed by the author of the authorized biography of the former leader of the ANC.

The spokesman for the Pretoria government commented that the book was trying to boost the hypothesis that changes in the region could only be at the instigation of the 'first world', rather from the inside the 'third world' country.

Fri 24

Letter **S Dorrill, Huddersfield** the scenario that Nelson Mandela was recruited by MI6, was not implausible as the Intelligence Service's were on the look out for 'agents of influence during the 1950's and 1960's.

Sun 26

With so much that has been hidden in the 'rainbow nation' emerging now is a new genus of music; Kwaito which is preparing to make big time in the west. From venues like the Abelarde's Sanction, a small bar in Johannesburg, many believe that the style of music is ready to follow that of Miriam Makeba, Hugh Masekala and more recently Lady smith Black Mambazo, onto the international scene.

The style is a derivative of house and the drum beat of the young black – hostile in nature, sung in any of the seven native languages or English. Performers, like B Fassie, tend to wear baggy and ‘named’ clothing.

More used to being heard over the radio airways, at 99.2 YFM, or on Phatt’s television music programme it will reach a British audience, at the Temple in Tottenham in north London for 2 days in 4/2000. On home ground the style will be once again a feature at the World of Music and Dance in Johannesburg on 1.4.

Tues 28

The largest diamond buying conglomerate in the world, De Beers, has pledged that non of the diamonds that pass through its hands will come from any of the world’s conflict areas. This move is a direct response to the findings of the United Nation’s Angolan Sanctions Committee report (qv 14/3). Company officials have closed down its buying operations in the Congo and Guinea, which was end of the line for the Unita smuggled diamonds.

Two people named, in the above report, J and R de Decker, have admitted that between 1993 – 1997 they exchanged light machine guns for \$5m worth of smuggled precious stones from Unita. They were then sold on to De Beers, or one of its associated companies, in the full knowledge that they had come from rebel held mines in Angola.

Wed 29

Following the failure of his appeal Eugene Terreblanche (qv 19/10) has been ordered to surrender himself to the Pretoria high court to begin a 12 month jail sentence for a crime he committed in 1996. At that time he was brought to court for beating a petrol attendant, J Nadzima, and also setting his dog onto him. It is also expected that the right wing Afrikaner will lose a second court decision that will see him serve a further six years in jail for the attempted murder of P Mothembe, a colleague.

Such is the nature of the person Mr Terreblanche is expected to ask to serve his time in an isolation cell; for his safety. According to a spokesman for the South African Prisoners Organisation for Human Rights this will not be necessary; prisoners are all friendly human beings.

Fri 31

Hundreds of black onlookers cheered as the South African neo Nazi Eugene Terreblanche surrendered yesterday and began serving a one year sentence for assaulting a black petrol attendant in 1996.

A request to appeal against his 1977 conviction was rejected on Monday and Terre’ Blanche, leader of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement, arrived on a black horse to give himself up at Porchefstroom, 77 miles east of Johannesburg. – AP -

APRIL 2000

Sun 1

The conference, called by president Mbeki to follow up the belief that there is no causal link between the HIV virus and Aids (qv 18/3), is to be held in the city of Durban in 7/000.

The 'Aids 2000' conference will be subject of to a boycott by some of the leading experts from Britain. Such a stance has been taken because of the links between the South African president and the American virologist, D Rasnick, who is regarded as something as a renegade from the early 1990's.

British researchers, working in this field, are also unhappy that for a country with such a high of HIV positive pregnant women the health service is not able to prescribe the ATZ drug on grounds of cost.

In 'Operation Crackdown', a police initiative to round up many thousands of illegal immigrants that flood to South Africa's cities, the police are forcing suspects into near nudity. This is in order to search for vaccination marks as proof of identity. This abuse of human rights is something the South African Human Rights is concerned about. According to an academic from the Center for Study of Violence and Reconciliation, in Johannesburg; such actions do not work. This is because the police do not have the reserves to sustain a prolonged campaign.

However the number of illegally held are on the increase. A local detention centre has had more than 8,000 people passing through, rather than the 2,000 it normally caters for. The numbers of people repatriated to Mozambique in any one week has risen from 2,000 to 2,5000. Instead of the one train leaving from the city each week one is leaving every three days. Each year 8m people enter the country without adequate papers. Of these 140,000 are sent home.

Tues 4

Angola; Education statistics, only 48% of those aged 3 – 18 are in school. 60 -70% of the population is illiterate. 1:4 girls have 4 years education. After 4 years of school the national exam failure rate is 30%the drop out rate in grade 1 – 4 is 15 – 20%. Less than 50% of teachers are adequately trained. Spending on Education 5.6% of its budget {38% on the military}. Classes usually have around80 children. There are 2 or 3 shifts of children in school.

Sat 8

At the ongoing inquiry into allegations that the media is racist (qv 16/2) sponsored by the Human Rights Commission, the editor of the Johannesburg based Mail and Guardian, P van Niekerk has accused a government minister of telling lies to the HRC. The minister of public affairs, J Radebe, had accused the editor of writing an article that was critical of president Mbeki. To compound this felony the piece was presented as though a black colleague, so as not to appear racist in nature had written it.

Thurs 20

The Lord Chancellor, in London, has bestowed the honour of Queens Council to the former president of South Africa, Nelson Mandela. This is only the second time such an accolade has been awarded to a foreigner.

In a letter endorsing South Africa's policy on Aids, President Thabo Mbeki, told world leaders that imposing a western solution on the "uniquely African catastrophe" of fast spreading HIV infection would be absurd and illogical.

In the letter, made public yesterday by the Washington Post, he defended the country's contacts with scientists who argue that Aids is not caused by HIV. – AP –

Sun 23

In what has been graded, by the police, as criminal rather than political, gunmen of the East Rand have killed six. The attack took place at a bar in a township in the district. As well as the deaths nine other people were injured, as the attackers; wielding AK 47's and pistols fled the area on foot.

Fri 28

Following the recapture, by Angolan regular forces, of the Unita headquarters in the Central Highlands (qv 21/10) the rebels have regrouped and are now on the offensive in the east of the country, near the Democratic Republic of the Congo's border with Angola. This begs the question of resupply and the effectiveness of the recent report by the United Nations on sanctions busting (qv 13/3).

A follow up report from the UN's Humanitarian office in Luanda has now reported on the condition of the estimated 3.8m population that were left to fend for themselves after the rebels fled. The finding's show that the region's infrastructure; rail road and air links have been destroyed. The survivors have existed on insects and in some case's grass and insect larvae.

International donors have been asked to provide 164m pounds, twice 1999's figure of 70m pounds.

MAY 2000

Sat 13

A South African appeal court yesterday upheld anti – apartheid activist Allan Boesak 's convictions* for stealing funds from a charity and aid money donated by the singer Paul Simon. But it dismissed one of Boesak's four fraud convictions and halved his jail sentence, to three years. – AP authors note see 25/3

Wed 17

South African police opened fire yesterday with rubber bullets on protesting students, killing one, following several days of violence over student fees at the University of Durban – Westville.

Riot police were sent in after students went on the rampage. – A P –

Thurs 18

With the arrival in London of the South African president Thabo Mbeki on a 48 hour visit will have this time to dispel the fears of many western diplomats and investors the country will not be infected with the 'Zimbabwe disease.'

He cannot, however, be too outspoken of his northern neighbour for fear of upsetting the delicate linkage – their economies – which join the two countries. Peaceful elections, the return of the Zimbabwean troops from the civil war in the Congo and free and fair elections are all that can be hoped for by the countries southern neighbour. Anything less like a call for sanctions or support for the Movement for Democratic Change will see the South African president labeled as a bully or a lackey of the whites.

“It is a society and an economy which is quiet different from anything in the rest of Africa and it emerged from a quiet different history. But it requires the confidence and support of western governments and investors to sustain its prosperity, and to protect it from the Zimbabwe virus”. **Anthony Sampson** -

Fri 19

Britain is to train an elite South African police unit in an attempt to help crack down on the country's spiraling crime rate, Tony Blair said yesterday before meeting the South African president Thabo Mbeki for the annual UK - South African summit in Downing Street.

A 500,000 pound training programme has been set up by the Metropolitan police for 100 officers from the Scorpions investigation unit to help them to tackle organised crime.
GDN page 7, C 1

Fri 25

Despite the USA's manufacturers agreeing to drop the price, a price that South Africa was not prepared to pay, for the drugs that are in use in the west to combat the spread of Aids the president still persists with his backing for the ideas D Ranski (qv). Mr Mbeki says that his government will spend their money on measures to combat the elements that he believes is the cause of the Aids virus – a decent health and education programme, an adequate sewerage disposal system and equal access to health care.

However with the international drug companies agreeing to drop prices, in some cases by as much as 90% they may try and regain lost profits. One way of achieving this may be to raise the price of drugs that will be needed to tackle the more causes of death, such as malaria and tuberculosis.

“According to a forthcoming report from the University of Pretoria, the average life expectancy of life in South Africa has fallen from 65.4 years to 55.7 years. In the province of KwaZulu – Natal, the HIV positive rate for pregnant women is estimated at more than 32%. University of Natal demographer, K Michels, reports that ‘deaths now outstrip births,’ and that by 2005 ‘only 13% of the population could live to celebrate their 40th birthday. – salon. com, The Big Extract – The Editor, page 12/3 –

Sun 27

The collision between art and politics has surfaced in the imposing halls and corridors of the building that houses the South African High Commission in Trafalgar Square in London. On the one hand is Pretoria's representative in London C Carolus (qv) and on the other hand is English Heritage whose very being is to protect the heritage of Britain.

At the heart of the dispute are a number of murals that show, in one case, indigenous people being in a subservient role to their Dutch colonial masters. Mrs Carolus now wants to remove such works and change the nature of the artwork in show. It would be replaced by modern works that are more in the spirit of the new millennium and of the ‘rainbow nation.’

To change the scenes described would call for structural alterations to the fabric of the building. This would be against of the law for the Grade 2 listed building, which was completed in 1933 by the architect H Baker, a friend of Cecil Rhodes (qv).

Tues 15

With the aggressive marketing of the world's diamonds, from newly emerging producers like Russia, the De Beers conglomerate has decided to end the function of the Central Selling Organisation (qv), which has been in operation for the last 60 years.

The function of the CSO, as is well known, was to mop up any surplus of the precious stones to stop the price falling – and affecting profits. From now on the company will put shareholders first and aim instead to become the industry's 'preferred supplier.'

Wed 31

Five Russian pilots freed by the Unita rebels in Angola have arrived in Zambia after walking for days through the bush. The Zambian home affairs minister, Peter Machungwa, said they appeared to be in good shape.

The five, flying on contract for aid agencies delivering food to government held towns, were shot down by Unita forces in May and June last year. – *Reuters* -

JUNE 2000

Fri 2

Apartheid – era security agents Craig Williamson and Roger Raven who admitted killing academic Ruth First in a 1982 bomb attack, were granted amnesty yesterday by South Africa’s truth and reconciliation commission.

The parcel bomb was intended for First’s husband, Joe Slovo, the late leader of the South African Communist Party – *Reuters* –

Sat 3

South Africa’s truth and reconciliation commission yesterday granted an amnesty to apartheid death squad commander Eugene de Koch and other former policemen responsible for killing 14 people from 1983 to 1991. Police general Johann Coetzee was also granted an amnesty for conspiring to kill members of an ANC unit and the murder of three anti apartheid activists in Swaziland in December 1986.

De Koch, is serving two life terms plus 212 years in prison for a range of crimes including murder. His lawyer said the amnesties were not related to the two life sentences De Koch was serving – *AP asb* –

Sun 11

Further to the disclosures of the revenue collected by the Angolan government (qv 27/2) from the oil exploration companies, the next block of waters are now ready to be auctioned off

It has been agreed between the authorities in Luanda and the members of the International Monetary Fund that a complete audit of the oil industry can be carried out. This will give some indication as to where the vast amounts of money raised by the sales goes. Rumour has it that the government uses the excess to finance the war with Unita. Another explanation is that the granting of a license only comes after a bribe has been paid.

To say that some officials are not happy with these events, signed in 4/2000, a fire at Sonagol office in Luanda has destroyed many sensitive documents surrounding the granting of these licenses.

Tues 13

The recent granting of an amnesty to Craig Williamson (qv 2/6) is to be the subject of a judicial review, lawyers of two families have announced.

Lawyers believe that a challenge can be mounted because those seeking amnesty failed to disclose all relevant evidence before the panel of commission. In the case of Mr Williamson; was it likely that he did not see the name on the envelope, Ruth First, when the enclosed bomb was targeted on Joe Slovo, a 'legitimate target' of the apartheid regime.

A similar defence will be challenged in a civil case brought by F Schoon who witnessed the death of his mother, Jeanette, and his six year old sister Katryn.

The second case, for the judicial inquiry to consider, involves bomb maker J Raven who again denies that he knew the intended target.

Tues 20

South Africa has launched a five-year programme to fight aids, saying that 6m of its people will be HIV positive within five years.

The plan backs continued research on anti – retroviral drugs used to prevent mother to child transmission and for rape victims. But it offers little hope or new money to the one in 10 or 4.3m South Africans who are already HIV – positive. – *Reuters* –

Wed 21

On a list of 191 countries, compiled by the World Health Organisation, measuring five health indicators; overall level, inequalities, patient satisfaction, how the system responds to need, and how well served people of different economic status feel South Africa was placed 175th. Mozambique was placed 184th. The United Kingdom rated 18th.

Fri 30

Following the announcement by the president, Thabo Mbeki, concerning Aids (qv 18/3) and the intended international conference other delegates have been announced. From Britain will come G Stewert, emeritus professor of public health at Glasgow University. Joining him will be A Herxheimer, who oversees clinical trials.

From the international medical field; Professor L Montaignier, the French scientist who discovered the Aids virus. From the Centre for Disease Control in Georgia in the USA comes Dr A Durr. The last dissident to be among those attending the conference in Durban is Professor E P E Eleopulos, a bio - physicist from the Royal Perth Hospital in Australia – who doubts the existence of the HIV virus.

JULY 2000

Sun 2

With the intention of the 'notable dissidents' in the scientific field to foster their beliefs in the causes of Aids (qv 30/6) at least 5,000 scientists have signed the so-called Durban Declaration.

Among the most prominent to sign up are a number of Nobel laureates; M Perutz the father of molecular biology, in Britain James Watson the co – discoverer of the DNA double helix – David Wetherall Regius professor of medicine at Oxford University and M Dexter, director of the Wellcome Trust have all signed in the knowledge that “the evidence that Aids is caused by HIV1 or HIV2 is clear cut, exhaustive and unambiguous, meeting the highest standards of science.” The data fulfills exactly the same criteria as for other viral diseases, such as polio, measles and smallpox.

Fri 7

Despite high expectation in the South African delegation, and a justifiable campaign, it was announced in Zurich that the 2006 World Cup would be staged in Germany. Reacting to the decision, a vote 12 : 11 from the Fifa delegates, the head of the South African delegation, D Jordon, said, “we are very disappointed ... The decision shows the mindset within world football is not ready to break away from the past.”

Reaction from within South Africa ranged from a visible show of disappointment from the former president Nelson Mandela to a pledge to pitch for the 2010 event. As well as hurriedly canceled celebration parties, on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange prices fell of companies involved in construction, hotels and retail outlets.

Sat 8

Leader Comment, **They wuz robbed, South Africa has a right to feel cheated** with the agreed game plan that after the exit of England as a choice for the 2006 World Cup votes would back South Africa, the plan came unstuck after the delegate “went missing.” With equal nominations, for South Africa and Germany, the Fifa chairman would, as already agreed, cast his vote for said country.

“What matters more [*than allegations of bribery*] is to clean up his whole system and to introduce rules which would guarantee greater equity between continents: even if that meant that England’s hopes of a second triumph at Wembly are yet further deferred.”

Mon 10

Opening the 13th international Aids conference, in the port city of Durban, the South African president Thabo Mbeki addressed 7,000 delegates from about 134 countries. The tone of his speech was much as expected. So angry were some delegates, on the president's insistence that the disease was not of a viral nature, that they left the hall.

The speech once again backed the findings of the 'dissidents,' led by Professor Ranski (qv 18/3) who find that Aids is caused by the poverty of the African people. Further evidence to support this claim comes from a 1995 World Health Organisation report, which cited the reasons for poverty as no clean water, sanitation or medical treatment. That is why women die in childbirth.

Direct action from a broad spectrum of the churches - Roman Catholic, Protestant and Evangelical - in Angola is now giving the government cause for concern. Recently formed, in 4/000, COIEPA is ready to challenge the MPLA's policy of 'conquer peace through war.' The movement's leaders want to replace this policy with one of 'peace through dialogue'.

This direct challenge to the people has had astounding results. On 11/6, after marching through Luanda, from four separate locations 10,000 people congregated at the city's national stadium to hear movements leaders outline their plans for the future of this people centered move for peace. On the same day and in two other Angolan provinces there were similar gatherings, with more to follow. The ultimate aim is to hold a National Congress for Peace in 7/000. – **Economist, page 80** –

Tues 11

In a lecture, to the Durban Aids conference, Mr Justice E Carson; a self admitted HIV carrier has condemned the stance of his president on this issue. In borrowed words he saw Mr Mbeki's stance as the 'irresponsibility that borders on the criminal.'

Putting the enormity of the problem in South African terms the judge took as a reference point a point 200 days ago; when the United Nations general secretary made out the case that little had been done in Africa to stem the spread of Aids. In the 7 months since the speech 1,700 people had become newly infected. Also 5,000 babies had been born HIV positive.

Question and answers on the stance of Professor Duisberg to the causes of Aids.

A tried and trusted plan of action – in Uganda – can and does lower the incidence of the disease. The recipe produced by Professor G Coovardia, who is a paediatrician and immunologist and is the chairman in Durban, consists of four elements.

The first is clear political leadership – use a condom. There then needs to be a system of community health and education systems. To involve the 'traditional leaders' leaves the

health workers free from deciding moral issues. Then comes the use of a cheap and inexpensive drug, Nevirapine which only need be used twice – once before and once after birth. Only then should the international community become involved, with cash donations, although the \$24m offered by the Clinton administration over one year would be seen as inadequate. - **Robert Lustig** -

Fri 14

On the eve of the closure of the Durban Aids conference the president, Thabo Mbeki, has agreed to the extension of a series of drug trials in Soweto. The drug, Nevirapine is for the use of women who have gone into labour. It is hoped to extend the trials of Nevirapine, which is manufactured by Boehringer Ingelheim, to 3 other sites involving 24,000 women.

“if the rich nations ... cancel South Africa’s foreign debt, the money made available to ... fight against Aids could be used to telling effect.. Its over simplistic to put the African Aids pandemic down to poverty alone – **Natal Witness, 11/7** -

The so called Durban Declaration...holds the conviction that HIV and Aids are indeed linked. What a pity that a spokesman from the president’s office saw fit to say that the declaration belonged in the rubbish bin. The confusion this must be sowing among millions of South Africans is profoundly serious. – **Johannesburg Star, 10/7; The Editor page 9**

Sat 15

To mark the closing speech, at the 13th United Nations conference on Aids in Durban, the former president made an impassioned speech before the assembled delegates. The former president, probably the only person with the personal authority to make all Africa; and its leaders listen, he implored that the continents leaders to rely on drug therapy, rather than believing in the ideas of the so called dissidents.

Leader Comment. **Africa wakes up to Aids** if the goal of this conference was to ‘break the silence’ of the scourge of Aids they, the UN, can claim “that they have gone a long way to achieving their goal.”

The lesson of Durban is that Aids is preventable. “There is still a long way to go – not enough money and the drugs are still too expensive but. Aids remains a terrifying threat to humanity”.

Mon 17

A surprise end to the political force, that created statutory apartheid in South Africa was announced when the New National Party ... agreed to merge with the liberal Democratic Party.

The partners will retain will retain their individual names in Parliament, until the 2004 general election, but will jointly contest local elections in November. With a total of 68 seats in the 400 seat Parliament, the two parties will present what the alliance leader, the DP's Tony Leon, called "a crucial strengthening" of the opposition. – **World Watch, Time Magazine 10/7** –

Tues 18

Within the next 24 hours the Antwerp High Council, the body that regulates the world's 10 largest diamond manufacturing centres, meeting at its biannual conference in the city, is expected to outlaw the use of the precious stones that have been mined from areas of conflict around the world.

The main proposal to curb this illicit trade, which is known to be financing the civil war in Angola, between Unita and the MPLA government, is for reputable companies to issue a 'certificate of origin' for products. Anybody found working on diamonds without such a certificate would be banned from the industry for life.

Responding to this imminent decision the Canadian diplomat, R Fowler, a member of the UN's Angola sanction committee said what was proposed was "the first time we are talking of a comprehensive approach," in the battle to outlaw such trade.

Thurs 20

'Conflict diamonds' from Angola (qv 18/7) and other African nations are, as expected, have been outlawed for use in the legitimate diamond trade.

Following the measures of the Diamond High Council, the governing body of the International Diamond Manufacturing Association and the World Federation of Diamond Bourses all precious stones will now have to be shipped in sealed bags and the contents entered on a data base.

To pay for these measures, with an independent body to monitor it ready by mid 9/2000, a small levy would be placed on the import and export of rough stones.

Fri 21

The asbestos mining company, Cape PLC, has failed in its attempt to have the House of Appeal ruling overturned by the House of Lords. The original ruling, made in 1999 (qv 5/7), was concerned with the eligibility of the country to pay compensation to its South African workers.

In there current ruling their Lordships, led by Lord Bingham, stated that the workers who are suffering from Asbestosis, some 3,000 people, are free to sue Cape in the British courts.

The decision was made in there is no convincing evidence that the appellants would receive legal aid. Another deciding factor was that there is a lack of South African lawyers that are sufficiently trained in dealing with claims of personal injury.

A spokesman for Cape PLC, based in Barking, said a decision on the company's next move would be taken after the judgement has been studied.

Sun 23

South African miners with asbestos related disease could get a multi – million pound settlement with UK firm Cape (qv 22/7) in two weeks, Thabo Makewa, Northern Cape minister said. – IOS page 4, C 8 –

As the prelude to South African members of the Scorpion squad (qv 19/5) receiving training from the Metropolitan Police in London, those selected had to undergo basic training deep in the bush. Fifty eight, of the first 100 selected, all university educated doctors or lawyers, were given basic physical training during an 11 week course at Maleskop. As well as their London training they will travel to FBI headquarters in Virginia, USA to learn different skills.

Overall in charge of this dedicated squad is the Attorney General B Ngkuka. Next is Frank Dutton, who brought to light – against a background of disbelief of his white colleagues – the work of the 'Third Force' and the jailing of Colonel Eugene de Koch (qv). Mr Dutton was asked to return from working with the United Nations, since 1994, where his job as special investigator of Human rights abuses was invaluable. P Richie – a former intelligence chief in the ANC, who will be in charge of logistics, will undertake the groundwork with Scorpio. Assisting him will be R Richards who had an investigative role on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. – ditto Sunday Review. Page 15 -

Mon 24

Coming to an end is the legacy of having separate councils for the cities and their adjacent townships. As from 11/2000 one large 'metro council' will be responsible for the day to day running of the area.

At the same time as these changes are taking place the authorities are taking the opportunity to loosen the colonial era that has been an element of South African life for many hundreds of years. From this time many of the world renowned cities of the country are to be given an African name.

The metropolitan region that will govern Johannesburg and Soweto will be renamed with the Zulu eGoli. Durban and its surrounds may become iThekenwi. The Nelson Mandela Metropole will oversee what are now named Port Elizabeth and its hinterland. The only city to keep its name is Cape Town – this is because the name is instantly recognised.

Thurs 27

South Africa has appealed to Fifa over the vote that gave Germany the 2006 World Cup. Although the world body's president S Blatter has stated that the vote in Zurich will stand, South Africa believes that it has a valid case after consulting the New Zealand FA, the Oceania Football Confederation and a Brussels lawyer who is an expert on Swiss law. GDN page 26, C 8

Fri 28

Maintaining the pressure on those that provide weapons, illegally, to those involved in civil war the British foreign office minister, Peter Hain, again named a Ukrainian national that was involved in transporting weapons to the Unita rebels In Angola (qv 19/1).

Free from the threat of a libel action, because he was speaking in the House of Commons chamber, he drew attention to the actions of V Bout, who runs the transport company Air Cess using two former Soviet planes. According to UN personnel, on the ground in Angola one or other of these planes has been spotted inside the country on 10 occasions between 10/97 and 1/98.

Speaking in the same debate Mr Hain also accuse the authorities in Gabon of not doing enough to stop the sale of conflict diamonds, from Angola, from being sold in the markets of Libreville.

Sat 29

An as yet unpublished report; The Aversion Project details the work of army medical staff and psychologists who were working with Dr Levin from 1969 until the mid 1980's. The report catalogs their work on homosexuals, and the group's efforts reverse this 'criminal' activity among conscripts to the military.

Those suspected of being homosexual were dispatched to Ward 22 of the Voortrekkhogtee Military Hospital near Pretoria. Once ensconced in their regulation brown pyjama's the patient's were subject to many traumatic experiences, such as attempts of chemical castration and electric shocks.

Doctor Levin, who left the country, for a job in Canada, at the time the Truth and Reconciliation Commission were about to name him as an abuser of human rights, now claims no wrongdoing; all that went to Ward 22 "went to be cured."

AUGUST 2000

Tues 1

Opponents of genetically modified food have demanded a five - year moratorium on GM development in South Africa, which they said was being used as a springboard to spread GM crops across Africa.

The South African Freeze Alliance on Genetic Engineering made its plea on the eve of an international conference of GM industry scientists in Johannesburg. – GDN page 10, C 5 -

Sat 5

More information has come to hand about the international connections, including those in Britain, between V Bout (qv 28/7) and others in the air freight industry.

The then South African based Ukrainian national ran a joint venture with Air Foyle of Luton Bedfordshire England. The association was linked through Air Cess; Norse Air Charter. Called Pietersburg Aviation Services [Pyt] Ltd; trading as Air Pass. The association lasted between 1996 – 1997.

Book; A Mouthful of Glass by H van Woerden, published by Gratna at 12.99, life and times of D Tsanvendas, the assassin of the South African Prime Minister H Verwoed in 1966.

Obituary, Kobie Coetsee the Afrikaner leader who foresaw the collapse of apartheid and met Mandela in jail; born in 1931, Laybrand in the Orange Free State to a family steeped in Afrikaner history, relatives had fought the British in the Boer War.

Studied law at the University of the Orange Free State and married Ena Malan in 1956. Member of Parliament, for Bloemfontein West in 1968. deputy minister of defence 1978, where he took much of the blame, unfairly, because of the number of detentions without trial.

With the self-elevation of PW Botha to president, in 1983, any changes that the minister made were overshadowed. It was not until 1985, and at the invitation of Winnie Mandela that he visited Nelson Mandela – and so began the process to end the ignominy of the apartheid system.

Hendrik Jacobus Coetsee, politician, died of a heart attack aged 69 on 29/7

Mon 7

Swaziland's government said it would ban the wearing of miniskirts in schools from next year as part of a national campaign against AIDS in the southern African kingdom, where one quarter of the population of 1 million is infected with HIV.

The ban aims to prevent teachers being enticed into sexual relations with schoolgirls said a government spokesman. An investigation last year into the impact of HIV/Aids on the country's education found that in some areas one – third of the teaching staff were infected, and there was a marked drop in school attendance because infected infants were dying before reaching school age. – **World Watch, page 16 Time 31/7** –

Tues 8

At a summit of the Southern African Development Corporation, held in the Namibian capital Windhoek, the region's leaders gave support to the policies of the Zimbabwe president Robert Mugabe. Led by the movements chairman, president Chissamon of Mozambique criticised the West for being too ready to interfere and not let the democratic elected governments sort out their own problems as they saw fit.

“We cannot in the SADC condone these views. We are the democrats and we want democracy to work according to the will of our people in each of our countries.”

Wed 9

The economic upheaval in Zimbabwe is causing financial concerns to the state owned electricity company; Eskom. So heavily does the country rely on its southern neighbour for power supplies that it has run up a bill of R140m / 14m pounds.

Supplies are down to one third of what they could be and as the authorities are reluctant to call in the debt that is seeking other ways to recoup what it is owed. There is talk of Eskom taking over ownership of some of Zimbabwe's power stations in payment when Harare privatises its electricity supply.

Tues 29

A white South African businessman, P Odendaal aged 44, appeared in court yesterday in connection with the death of one of his black workers. He is accused, after being witnessed in Saasolburg – 40 miles south of Johannesburg, of causing the death of one of his employees – M Rampuru aged 37 – by dragging him behind his car. – **AP adb** –

Wed 30

A car bomb blew up in the center of Cape Town, but no one was injured and there was no damage to buildings. It was the 18th blast to hit Cape Town in the last 2 years. **Reuters**

SEPTEMBER 2000

Sun 3

At the end of a 3 day conference, highlighting that there is elements of racism instilled in the community, came after the deaths of a farm worker (qv 29/8) and the painting white of an black alleged shop lifter.

The government is being accused of creating; and increasing this divide between the whites and the blacks. The proponents of this theory, the Group of 63, and all Afrikaner intellectuals, say that race based Africanisation ideologists have gained the upper hand in opposing the 'rainbow nation' ideas of Nelson Mandela.

This theory was dismissed by Palo Jordan, MP, who accused whites of wanting to return to the days when National Party policies were not seen as a bar to economic progress. The former National Party leader F W de Klerk said that the whites felt alienated and that the post 1994 goodwill was coming to an end.

The end of apartheid hasn't just transformed South Africa's political climate. A group of young designers is liberating the fashion industry. With the inauguration of the countries first Fashion Week, designers such as C Native – a former footballer based in Soweto along with 20 other designers were able to exhibit there wares at the Sanderton Convention Center in Johannesburg. Along with the 24-hour fashion television channel and the eight international fashion magazines that have launched a South African edition new talent will undoubtedly reach a wider audience. – **Reality Magazine, page 17 – IOS**

Tues 12

Detailing he number of attacks on public places and police stations, in and around Cape Town (qv 30/8), the security minister Steve Tshwete accused members of People Against Gambling and Drugs (qv) and more specifically its armed wing; G Force as the group responsible.

The minister warned that the situation could deteriorate to such an extent that the city could suffer, as Tunisia is, as a result of Muslim rivalry.

Wed 13

Seven people were slightly injured when a bomb exploded last night in Cape Town, officials said. The bomb went off in a car park next a hall where the opposition party, the Democratic Alliance was holding a meeting. – **AP** –

Tues 19

At the annual conference of the largest trade union organisation in South Africa, Cosatu, the president was attacked by the Union's general secretary, W Madisha, over his continued belief that Aids is caused by poverty (qv 10/7).

Sitting, impassively beside Mr Madisha, Mr Mbeki listened as the general secretary said "We need to put the present controversies behind us and develop strategies to obtain cheap drugs, either through hard negotiations with producers or through parallel importation of generics and compulsory licensing."

This rebuke comes hard on a memorandum from among others the medical profession and even among members of the ruling ANC that question Mr Mbeki's stance on this contentious issue.

Wed 20

A recent incident, the killing of a white naval officer by a black seaman, has once again highlighted the endemic racism that exists throughout the military. This latest death, at the Simonstown naval base was brought on by an undisclosed argument. The unnamed black able seaman then turned the gun upon himself and died later in hospital.

This most recent incident happened as a report on a similar occurrence 12 months ago at a Bloemfontein military base, when a black army lieutenant hunted down and killed white officers. The basis of his grievance was that he had been disciplined for returning back to base late from a family funeral.

In its conclusion the report highlights the fact that the former members of the liberation army are treated badly when compared to their white colleagues in the new post apartheid army.

Sat 23

To compound the criticism heaped on the president, because of his stance over the Aids issue (qv 19/9), those he thought of as friends have now begun to speak out against him as a person and the way this stance is affecting the countries prospects.

The most notable among these is the Archbishop of Cape Town, N Ndungane, who said "history will measure this countries slow response to the pandemic in human not statistical terms ... the inherent injustice will be judged as a serious crime against humanity."

Within the ruling ANC there are those who criticise his stance. They also say that the president is too friendly with big business and ignoring the plight of the masses. There again whilst not wishing to become in the row over Aids industry chiefs, say in private,

that the message given out; that South Africa is not a place that takes advantage of the latest knowledge on issues like Aids, is not a place that we want to invest our money.

To add to Mr Mbeki's problems rumours abound; denied on all sides that there is a conspiracy between London and Washington to replace the president with Cyril Ramaphosa, who left the government in recent years.

Sun 24

Speaking in parliament the president gave his backing to those in the health service, doctors, dentists and hospital workers, to assure them that the governments programme is "based on the thesis that HIV causes Aids." Then he went and spoiled his good words by repeating that HIV was not the only cause of Aids.

Fri 29

Speaking, at the end of the British Labour Party conference, Nelson Mandela; describing himself as "the pensioner from the colonies," argued that the future of mankind was global solidarity. However the "poor and marginalised must be sustained in the age of capitalism".

At the same time as his plea on behalf of the world's poor Mr Mandela thanked the Anti Apartheid Movement and its mainly Labour thinking supporters for the help it gave which heralded the end of the apartheid regime in South Africa.

Sat 30

Not one for knowingly criticising his successor Nelson Mandela has stepped into the controversy surrounding the beliefs that Thabo Mbeki holds concerning the causes of Aids.

In a press interview the former president said that he "shared the dominant opinion that prevailed around the world " that HIV causes Aids, and would not change his view until the scientific world said otherwise.

OCTOBER 2000

Mon 2

After a lengthy investigation, by the Heath commission, into alleged wrong doings at the time of the awarding of to British Aerospace Systems (qv 28/11) to supply the South African air force with Hawk training jets and additional support contracts, the auditor general S Fakie identified flaws in the way the contracts were awarded.

Parliament was told that in the final analysis British Aerospace was awarded the lucrative contract even though the company had come 3rd in technical evaluation and only 2nd overall.

Despite these failings they were awarded, with their Swedish partners, Sabre, the three billion pound contract. Also there was the promise of a further large investment which would provide 65,000 jobs. Concluding his report Mr Fakie had his doubts that these promises would be kept.

Tues 3

At a resumed hearing of the Truth and Reconciliation commission hearing for amnesty by F Barnard, this convicted killer added further to his testimony, given in 1999 (qv 20/10), alleging government involvement in the Boipatong massacre that occurred eight years ago; at the height of the negotiations between the ANC and the De Klerk regime.

The hearing was told that throughout the 1980's agents of the government, the security forces, made weapons available to members of Inkatha who were the enemies of the ANC.

Mr Barnard, a one time member of the Civil Corporation Bureau and its successor the Directory of Covers Collections, is also seeking amnesty for he killing of the anti apartheid activist David Webster in 1989.

Wed 4

The deputy chairman of South Africa's truth commission, Alex Boraine, has revealed a suppressed section of its report claiming that former president F W de Klerk hid his role in the 1988* bombing of the South African council of churches headquarters building in Johannesburg. – [*1/9], GDN page 18, C 8 –

Fri 6

Detailing further his belief that there is a conspiracy by the West to discredit him as a person Mr Mbeki (qv 23/9) spoke to the national executive of the ANC and members of parliament.

At the meeting, which took place on 4/10, the president named the American CIA along with the major pharmaceutical companies as being behind the international plot to oust him. The reason for this policy was a fear that the president's stance on the Aids issues (qv) will upset the economy of the western world. The insistence that Aids is not caused by a virus will harm the profits of drug companies and therefore share prices will fall and the economy – both of the employee and the company will suffer.

Sat 7

The number of UK tourists visiting South Africa last year rose by 4% last year to 334, 226. South African Tourism, announcing the figures, said that they were preparing to step up their marketing, advertising and PR campaign to further increase numbers – GDN Travel, page 22 –

Mon 9

A report, from the Medical Research Council, indicates that the majority of rape of schoolgirls less than 15 years is perpetrated by their schoolteachers or their immediate relatives – 33% and 25 % respectively.

These figures have doubled in the last 10 years and are among the 50, 000 reported rapes reported to the police. However the Council believes that that figure should be raised by the factor 9, as so many go unreported for fear of provoking another assault from their attacker.

One theory for this increase is that girls so young are less likely to be infected with the Aids virus than the older women are.

Tues 10

Despite the very public stance of the president, and his government, over the drug prescriptions to combat Aids for the public, it has been announce that there is a very different attitude for members of parliament and the judiciary.

The health minister, M T Msingam, has disclosed that as part of a parliamentary private medical scheme provision is made there is an 'aid for Aids' package. All told this scheme is open to 2,000 people. The scheme allows for prescription of 400 pounds on the most effective anti HIV drugs – ATC and 3TC.

This announcement comes hard on the heels of the government ordering the Great Nespruit Rape Intervention Project from providing such medicines to those victims most at risk of infection. The project coordinator says, "It's an outrage. If you are sitting in government you can get life saving medication, but if you are poor and living in rural Mpumalanga, then you are denied it."

Wed 11

With one banned work, the poem; Kobus Le Grange Marias Christopher Hope was not expecting similar restrictions following the overthrow of the regime that in 1972 prevented its publication. However when he began to revive the work and set it to music in 1996 he was not expecting the poem to cause any offence to the new regime. Unfortunately this time around a 'committee' declared it racist and offensive to blacks.

Reacting to this the author said "Under the old regime at least you knew who the enemy was. Nowadays you may be silenced by erstwhile allies."

Fri 13

Letters [1] **A van de Vilet, London** racism (qv 11/10) all kinds is evident, not just anti white feeling.

[2] **B Jackson, Director ACTSA** setting the issue straight as to who does not allow the poor to receive medicines that will help those that are HIV infected.

As one who has himself had literary works banned by the old apartheid regime he takes issue with the view of the new racism (qv 12/10) taken by the poet C Hope. Whilst he does not agree with the overall situation in the 'rainbow nation,' as seen by himself, the now partner of Pretoria's high commissioner to London, he will defend his right to continue to speak out about it. – **Graham Bloch G 2 page 6** -

Sat 14

Letter **D Woods, London** as one of the 'notables' of the struggle to free South Africa the former newspaper editor thought C Hope had some valid criticism of the new South Africa. However the country is nothing like the old – to suggest anything else is outrageous.

In reply to G Bloch (qv) the author would say that those that are in dissent with the present administration are treated more fairly now than they would have been under the old regime.

Mon 16

Talking to a reporter on the Johannesburg Sunday Times the president has had a change of heart on his public pronouncements on the causes of Aids (qv). In the interests of unity, within the ANC, he has agreed to conform to the 'accepted' view that the disease was caused by a virus.

There are still elements, within the ruling classes, that believe in the power of witchcraft. The latest incident has occurred in KwaZulu where the provinces education minister, F Gasa a member of the Inkatha Freedom Party, has abandoned her duties. The minister

claims that her predecessor; E Shandu has put a curse on the office. The measure was taken after she was sacked, for practicing nepotism, with jobs at her disposal.

Tues 18

Obituary, John Laredo 13.2.32 – 1.10. 2000 a contemporary of Afrikaner intellectuals such as Bran Fischer and M Schoon. As of so many other intellectuals he was politicised by the killings in Sharpsville. At some time he joined the Afrikaner Resistance Movement who were responsible for a number of attacks against state authority. Jailed and detained for 5 years for not giving evidence against comrades*

Exiled to England he continued in his academic work – combining it his anti apartheid work. He and his second wife were only free to return, on a visit, to South Africa once a multi racial government had been elected.

* authors note, see controversy surrounding aspiring London MP, J Lewis; qv 28/1/96.

Fri 20

An opinion poll, carried out by the Institute of Democracy has released findings that will be of concern to the ANC government and in particular the president. With all the recent controversy over the causes of Aids a large number of South Africans, 50%, have lost faith in the performance of Mr Mbeki. In comparison it can be said that when Mr Mandela left office the popularity of the president stood at 85%.

Other findings; 62% of those polled are not confident in the measures taken by the government to stem the spread of Aids. Just 28% of the people support the president's economic policies. Those questioned as to whether black South Africans trust the independent press, against trust for the president, answered that only 48% placed their trust in the president. As a whole 60% placed more confidence in the written media.

Tues 24

The South African prison authorities have cut 10 months off cleric Alan Boesak's three-year jail sentence, for good behaviour. The anti apartheid campaigner was convicted of stealing 1.3bn rand donor funds. – *Reuters* –

Wed 25

Following the recent announcement, from those in authority, on the Aids issue (qv 16/10) the health ministry has launched a new initiative to combat the effects of the virus. The initiative, a series of 9 booklets, issued to health workers; covers the ethical considerations and the management of occupational exposure to the virus.

Critics of the policy point out that when dealing with the transmission of the virus from pregnant women to their unborn child there is no mention of the range of anti viral drugs that are available. In response the government has said that ATZ is too expensive to use.

They are considering the use of a substitute – Nevirapine – once the results of nation wide tests are known.

The Opposition leader, Tony Leon; who is visiting Europe to find a cheaper supplier of the less costly anti viral drug, with an eye to the local elections on 5/12 has promised free drugs to those that need them in any municipality that the Democratic Party wins control off. This ploy was criticised by a government spokesman who claimed that it would be using black people as guinea pigs – as the apartheid government did before 1995.

Sun 29

The death of P Mankahlana aged 36, an aid to the president, after a ‘long illness’ has sparked a row over the accountability of ‘notables’ when it comes to disclosing who has been infected with the Aids virus. According to M Haywod head of the Treatment Action Campaign, an Aids law project, three senior members carry the virus.

Challenged by the Mail and Guardian newspaper to reveal the names of those in the cabinet who is HIV positive a spokesman refused to comment on their status. This non-disclosure attitude came on the heels of a promise from the Archbishop of Cape Town that all his bishops were to take the test.

NOVEMBER 2000

Fri 10

Mozambican security forces killed at least 10 protesters from the main opposition party, Renamo yesterday, who were demonstrating against last December's elections which they claim were rigged.

An interior ministry spokesman claimed seven protesters had died. " [They] were so violent we had to use power to counter the situation," he said. – *Reuters* –

Sun 12

Recent events, in the land locked former British Overseas Territory of Swaziland, have forced an unusual alliance between employers and their employees to try and change the monarch to change certain of his recently imposed decisions.

The leading light in the protest; a 48 hour general strike set to begin on 14/11, is former electrician J Sithole aged 47. Mr Sithole, who has taken on the mantle of Morgan Tsvangaria in Zimbabwe, is the de facto leader of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions. There protest will be joined by the countries 300 strong traditional leaders who are protesting at the expulsion of 200 people from their ancestral homes. Only for the land to be given to by King Mswati the Third to a relative. Such misrule of royal patronage and nepotism are at the heart of the protest.

Another power taken, by the English educated southern African leader, is to allow for the arrest and detention of protesters without trial. They can also be held for two months under the new rules. There has already been one arrest under the new regulations, following a protest meeting across the South African border in the town of Nespruit. Protesters believe that the government has a list of a further 82 that could face detention.

Understanding that the regime receives trading favours from the United States the protesters have enlisted the help of the Geneva based International Labour Organisation to use its influence to change monarchical policy. The strategy is knowing that 85% of everything that is consumed in the country has to be imported there would be a lot more unrest if the scene was allowed to deteriorate any further. The United States have also demanded that the state of emergency, imposed 27 years ago, and the new labour laws is withdrawn by 30/11 or Swaziland's exports will not be granted 'most favoured' status.

Mon 13

“Operation Noah’s Ark’ is helping to restock areas of Angola that have lost the majority of their wild animal stocks. This is due to the more than 20 years of civil war that has torn the country apart since the 1970’s.

Beginning in 9/2000 15 elephants were transferred from South Africa’s Madikwe Game Reserve to one near Quicama in Angola. This location was chosen as the 1970’s population of 3,200 elephants and 8,000 buffaloes had been entirely wiped out.

The project is financed – and will continue for another 5 years – by the Kissama Foundation, an organisation funded by the oil industries of both South Africa and Angola.

It is ironic that some of the elephants coming from South Africa were themselves brought in from Zimbabwe, in 1994, from Gonarezhou National Park as a result of the Harare governments Operation Campfire. – C Hellier, **BBC Wildlife Magazine**, page 45 –

Fri 17

The regimes apparent attempt to clamp down on official’s accused of corruption has taken a knock after an alleged incident in a Durban hotel room on 30/10. Whilst attending a gathering of overseas ombudsmen in the city Pretoria’s senior anti corruption official, S Baqwa, is alleged to have attacked a women, Ms Mlkuhisi, in her hotel room. Referring to the incident a government spokesman claimed that this type of occurrence was just one of a number designed to smear the work of the anti corruption unit.

The work of the public prosecutor has already embarrassed the government after the report into one of its ministers. The report, into the allegations concerning the activities of the justice minister, P Maduna, who had made unfounded claims against the auditor general. The corruption squad’s report recommended that the minister be disciplined after breaching two clauses of the constitution in his dealings with the state oil company. As of now there has been no action, either from the president or parliament.

After an investigation, into the cause of a crash, in which 27, mainly elderly British tourists died in 1999 after visiting the Kruger National Park, the driver of the coach has been charged with manslaughter. The investigators found that the bus was driven at excessive speed down a steep incline, rather than a brake failure as the driver claimed.

Sat 18

Evidence about the status of the migrant worker, given to the ongoing inquiry into racism conducted by the Human Rights Commission (qv 15/2), from the International Organisation of Migrants indicates the attitude of the man in the street; “Black South

Africans do not easily accept black Africans, they are at best tolerated and at worst brutalised and marginalised.”

Thus can be seen an element of fear of the masses that was so endemic of the pro apartheid regime. Today the illegal gathering up of these economic migrants continues from the large cities still continues. These actions, by the police, are in part to quell the rising unrest felt by residents as well as a move to return the illegals from where they came from. Migrants are perceived to be better educated, Zimbabweans, or work harder as is shown by Mozambicans. Therefore it is felt that they are taking ‘the bread out of residents mouths.’

Although regular attempts are made to deport these ‘illegals’, through the Lindela detention centre, in Krugersdorp west of Johannesburg, it is not always goodbye. For a bribe of R200 /£18 it is possible to avoid such a fate.

An assault charge made against the countries top anti – corruption official S Baqwa (qv) has been withdrawn.

Mon 20

Two years on from the kidnap of 24 year old Jason Pope, a British born geologist seized by Unita guerillas in Angola his parents are fighting the bureaucracy of the British foreign office to determine whether he is dead or alive.

It was reported after the initial attack on the mining installation, in 1998 (qv 10/11), that Mr Pope was seen, among others, trekking through the bush and acting as beasts of burden for their captors. Initially allowed to keep in contact with their employers, the Canadian company Diamond works, radio contact has been lost as the group moved out of radio reach.

The parents of Mr Pope have had various meeting with foreign office officials in London, where they have been told that to reveal information at this time would “cause harm to Britain’s defence security and international relations.

Tues 21

The jailing of M Mbui, the ‘peoples poet’, in 1999 (qv 23/4) has; with a second appeal against his 13 year jail sentence pending caught the interest of Helen Suzman. The veteran campaigner against injustice is convinced that he was framed for the crime that he was jailed for.

Convicted of robbing a bank in Pretoria it is claimed that he walked into the building, without any disguise, and demanded cash. The police produced, in the beginning six eyewitnesses, however four of them could not pick Mr Mbui out of an identity parade.

The poet, who could demand fees of more than the R15, 000 that was stolen, claims that the police framed him because he was about to reveal the names of politicians who were involved in drug smuggling.

“An attempted car – jack went wrong in South Africa. The car’s security system had an airbag installed in the car’s ceiling which would inflate if a driver sat down without disabling the mechanism. When the airbag exploded towards the armed young car – jacker, he thought someone was shooting at him. He instinctively fired twice but unfortunately his gun was still in his pocket. One bullet hit his knee, and the other lodged in the base of his penis. “ – **A winner of the Darwin Awards, given for dying in stupid ways, The Editor, 17/11, page 15 –**

Thurs 23

Journalist, turned editor C Cardoso, has been assassinated in the centre of Maputo the capital of Mozambique. It remains unknown why he was targeted, however it is thought that his work to expose those who were working in the illegal economy would have had a motive.

The death of the former head of Mozambique’s national news agency AIM, 1980 to 1989; and founding editor of Medifa a fax distributed newspaper; independent in nature was described by the prime minister, P Mocumbo, as of “a journalist who had fought tirelessly for freedom of the press”.

Fri 24

Up to 70 inmates awaiting trial died on Tuesday in mysterious circumstances in a jail in Montepuez, northern Mozambique, a centre of anti government rioting.

The prime minister, Pascoal Mocumbi, was quoted as saying that the prisoners had died “apparently without violence”, adding that the deaths might have been caused by suffocation due to overcrowding, food poisoning or lack of water. – **Reuters –**

Sat 25

Nelson Mandela ’s doctors say they have detected an abnormality in his blood but it is not life threatening.

“We have found a rare protein that indicates some form of problem,” says Dr Michael Pitt. “It does suggest that there is something going on in the prostate.” Mr Mandela, 82, who had a prostate cancer scare in 1990, will undergo tests in the next week. – **GDN page 18, C 7 –**

Sun 26

In what many former residents a stunt by the ANC, days before local elections are to be held, some former residents of will be able to return to land between Cape Towns business district and Table Mountain; remembered as District Six, and a symbol of the atrocities of the apartheid regime.

District Six was once the home of 66,000 people of all ethnic origins, until all the residents were evicted over 30 years ago by the National Party government under the Group Areas Act. Since that time the only new building erected has been a 'whites only' technical college.

Very soon 80 acres, of the original 220 acres – cleared by the apartheid regime – will become home to 1,763 families will return. Of these only 400 will be black, the rest of mixed race.

Mon 27

The deal to provide the military with British Areospace manufactured Hawk aircraft and other military hardware, which was signed with the government in 1999 (qv 28/11) is to be investigated by the public accounts committee of parliament.

Seven days ago a sub committee, made up from officials from the offices of the protector of government ethics, the advocate generals office and a special prosecutor convened under Judge W Heath. The four pronged investigations will try and determine why the cost of the contract rose 50% rose over the 12 months of negotiations.

Thurs 30

On the eve of World Aids Day it is spelt out that the infection with the HIV virus will end in the death of victims who are poor, while those that are able will buy the drugs that will enable them to survive.

South Africa has the highest number of infected people in the world; 4.2m of its 39.9m population. This figure is more than 10% of the population.

The country's GDP is expected to be 17% lower in 2010 than it would have been without Aids, wiping \$22bn from the economy.

One in four women between the ages of 20 and 29 is HIV positive.

DECEMBER 2000

Mon 4

Such is the popularity of Mr Mbeki it was left to the former president Nelson Mandela to speak at a rally of ANC supporters before important local government elections take place. In his speech Mr Mandela made an impassioned plea the party supporters nor to become stooges of the opposition Democratic Alliance.

It was deemed necessary to mobilise the former president as the support for the party, and the present leader, is slipping, according to the latest opinion polls. These polls show that in the major conurbations, cities and their associated townships, support for the two are as follows. Johannesburg, 44% to 33%, Cape Town 40% to 28%. In the other metropolitan areas. In Pretoria and Durban there is a similar situation.

The major issue at these elections is the voting in of local councils that will jointly run the white town, and its associated township, as one entity.

Tues 5

Leader Comment, **Rainbow Blues** these local elections could see the countries 19m voters give a well-deserved kick up the backside to the ANC. "It is hoped that it will do so." It is wrong, for this administration, to harp on about the legacy of apartheid, as the president is apt to do so. This stance just echoes the stance of Mugabe and his blaming of the British over the land issue.

The time is past when the youth of the townships could blame the whites – they have no memory of such times – they are now asking why is the present government at this time offering free electricity and services to their homes.

Is it ant wonder that support for the Democratic Alliance is expected to grow? "Mr Mbeki must do better."

Wed 6

Letters, [1] **R Segal, Walton on Thames, Surrey** to attack the ANC on its economic policy is hardly fair as it was western governments who rejected Pretoria's thinking and forced on them that forced on them "black empowerment" which has helped few.

[2] **J Myburgh, Democratic Party, Cape Town** little racism was metered out, by the Democratic Party at the last election, rather it were opinion polls that showed that the [by then] the Democratic Alliance was fair in its conduct.

[3] **B Waddell, London**, as it is accepted that there is no cure for the Aids, virus which attacks the immune system, then any policy that aims to rid a system of

poverty, and by association filth, should be praised. One such is Mbeki 's policy in South Africa.

[4] **M Grut, London** challenge Pretoria to spend less on military arms; R43m would go a long way to fight the scourge of Aids.

Shootings near a polling station killed five men and a woman yesterday during the municipal elections in South Africa. Five suspects were arrested in Katlehong, a poor township near Johannesburg, but the police said they did not know whether the shooting was election related.

The African National Congress is expected to win most of the reduced number councils and six metropolitan authorities. It was being strongly challenged by the Democratic Alliance in some areas. – AP, adb, -

Thurs 7

The African National Congress failed to win all six of the local authorities that will run the new mega cities, which brings white cities and their associated black townships under one local government authority, at the recent elections. Cape Town fell from its grasp, as the Democratic Alliance gained votes from disgruntled 'coloured' voters to prevent a win for the ANC. Control of the council in Durban will have to be shared with the Inkatha Freedom Party, who lost votes to the Democratic Alliance.

Throughout the country the DA gained 6% more of the national vote above what the two main elements, the National and Democratic Party's, gained at the last general election. Seen as a 'significant victory' throughout the metropolitan areas, 20% of the national vote went to the Democratic Alliance. Continued support on this scale would enable the de facto opposition to rightly assume the role, says a spokesman for the Electoral Institution, based in Johannesburg.

With most of the votes counted the ANC has 60% of the national vote, down 7% gained in the 1999 general election.

Sat 9

With the local elections over the position of the Democratic Alliance, with 25% of the national vote, and its leader Mr Tony Leon is the leader of the country's first real parliamentary opposition to the ANC.

Unlikely as it seems Mr Leon, Jewish, white and allegedly gay; two attributes that do should not adhere him firstly to the Muslims of the Cape who voted for the Alliance in sufficient numbers to allow the party to gain control of the Cape Town or to the white Afrikaner voter and his Calvinistic attitude, it can now be said that the Democratic Alliance is a force to be recommended in the future.

Sun 10

Following the decision of the Namibian president to allow Angolan troops to fight inside its borders, after rebels crossed from Angola (qv 5/1), much needed tourism revenue is being lost.

In the latest incident; two German travel agents, accompanied by two Namibians, were attacked in southwest Zambia as the party was returning through the Capavari Strip. An AK 47 wielding bandit in their vehicle attacked them. As a result of the attack one of the Namibians was shot dead and the other was severely injured, but able to continue driving to the border post of Katima Bulu, before his injuries were treated.

Since the beginning of the year 70 civilians have been killed in northern Namibia. There is now a ban on traveling overland to places like Etosha National Park or the Okavango Delta. Visitors to these tourist musts have now to be flown in.

The director of the Tour and Safari Association of Namibia, D Gloue, says foreigners are not arriving in the country as part of the Cape Town, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe route, and tourism is dying.

“If the suggested drop off of support for the ANC materialises – it will not challenge the party’s stark domination of the political land scrape. ... it might create for the emergence of a serious political party challenging the ANC from the left in future years.” – **H Barreell H Streek, Mail and Guardian, 4/12, - The Editor page 10 –**

Sat 16

According to a survey, carried out by London based the human resources consultancy; ECA International South Africa is 45% cheaper than the UK. The survey was based on the price of nearly 130 items from tea bags to televisions. – an extract, **GDN page 9, C 1 –**

“Swaziland’s Chief Justice ordered that the leader of the main opposition party be released from detention on two charges of sedition. Mario Masuku is alleged to have made obscene remarks against King Mswati and called for a revolution to overthrow the monarch than controls the small southern African state.

The move came during a period of growing tension in Swaziland. Thousands of Swazi protested the recent eviction of more than 200 rural families and their chief so that the King’s brother could use the land. The introduction of laws aimed at stifling figures and journalists has also angered many. – **World Watch, Time Magazine, 27/11. Page 28 –**

Tues 19

The question whether to encourage whites to make an apology for the years of apartheid’s misrule has come to haunt the present administration. The degree of encouragement that the Mbeki government is questionable. The waters are muddied by the fact that there are blacks in his administration who had collaborated with the regime.

One such is S Sigcoru, who for 86 days, 13 years ago, was Africa's first female prime minister. Throughout her short reign, in the 'independent homeland' of the Transkei the country she ruled was completely dependent on Pretoria for all the Transkei's needs. After nearly 3 months in office she was overthrown in a military coup. General Bantu Holomasia (qv), who also had the special relationship with Pretoria's white regime, led this. Subsequently General Holomasia served in the cabinet of Mr Mandela's administration.

Wed 20

In a follow up report, to an earlier rouge diamonds from Angola (qv 14/3) commissioned by the United Nations, a second report is now under consideration. Passed from the general assembly to the security council this report details, for example, the involvement of Switzerland in the trafficking of these illegal stones.

From Switzerland Britain imports 107m pounds worth of rough diamonds; worth £44.2m. For this amount of precious stones to be processed in this non-producer country it is obvious that some element of dealing in illegal stones takes place.

Sat 23

The naming and shaming of V Bout (qv 28/7), in a report sponsored by the United Nations into the supply of arms to Angola (qv 20/12) goes into great detail as to how Unita, and other rebel movements, are able to finance their fight with the government in Luanda.

From his base in Sharjah, one of the Gulf States, the son of and indeed a former KGB operative, along with a British partner, M Harridine, have been able to send 38 flights to Unita held territory in the east of Angola. On board the former Soviet planes, trading as Air Cess, was a wide range of military hardware – anti tank weapons, 122mm cannon and 20,000 mortar bombs. The rebels paid the price of \$14m with illegally mined diamonds from mines on their territory.

The Bulgarian authorities, from where much of the military hardware originated, was provided with end user certificates showing the destination for the arms to be the Congo or Tanzania to "give a semblance of legitimacy."