

## JANUARY 2002

### Tues 1

A lorry in South Africa overturned and killed at least 48 members of the same family, police said yesterday. The lorry was carrying 120 people on a pilgrimage to their ancestors' graves near Roossenekel, 125 miles north east of Johannesburg, on Saturday night when the driver lost control and the vehicle rolled over twice, crushing the passengers. All the victims were members of an extended family. – AP –

### Sat 5

A member of the South African forces sent to Burundi in November to protect its politicians was found dead in a poor area of the capital, Bujumbura, yesterday.

The authorities would not give his name or details about his death. – AP –

### Sun 6

Mark Shuttleworth, 28 an internet millionaire from South Africa, will become the first African in space after paying for his passage into space in a Russian Soyuz rocket in four months time. – IOS, page 2, C 6 –

### Mon 7

On the back of the controversial arms supply deal signed with British Aerospace Systems, and other European companies, voices are being heard that advise caution. Initial the arms contracts, over 15 to 20 years, were expected to bring other foreign investors flocking into the country. With this inward investment it was likely that unemployment would fall.

However with the Rands fall in value against the US dollar of 40% circumstances, critics of the deal maintain, have altered so much that a second look at whether such a military purchase is necessary. So far pleas to the Mbeki government for a renegotiation of the contract have fallen on deaf ears.

One of the major pressure groups, against the whole contract, Economists Allied for Arms Reduction; Ecaar, note that in 4/02 there is a chance to alter the supply details by canceling the purchase of 31 aircraft. If this fails, which is likely, as Pretoria will not want to lose face, the Eccar pressure group is to take the government to court. There they will argue that the whole contract is unconstitutional.

## **Sat 12**

Health officials in Northern Cape province have banned doctors, in public hospitals, from prescribing anti retroviral drugs for rape victims. The order, from the provincial health minister who was only following the guidelines and beliefs of his president, came to light at the resumed trial of six men accused of rape and who sodomised a six month old child (qv 15/11).

The ongoing controversy, where some doctors ignore the guidelines about prescribing such drugs as Neviripine came to light when Doctor B Webber was suspended from her work at Kimberly hospital. The hospital authorities claim they were justified in this action after they claimed that the German physician as she had “unlawfully and intentionally undermined the office of the president.

## **Tues 15**

A 3, 000 strong mob in Khayelisha, South Africa, killed three alleged murderers with burning tyres round their necks after they were freed by the police for lack of evidence. Police said residents claimed the trio had killed some businessmen. **GDN page 12, C5**

## **Thurs 17**

A white South African has been charged with attempted murder for allegedly shooting and wounding 14 black motorists as they drove along the road from Johannesburg near his home in Rustenburg, police said. – **Reuters** –

## **Fri 18**

Six men accused of raping a nine month old baby in South Africa’s Northern Cape province were freed yesterday after the charges against them were dropped because of negative DNA. The attack last year sparked national outrage – **GDN page 15, C 1** –

## **Wed 23**

The South African province with the highest number of HIV Aids sufferers is to supply a key anti retroviral drug to HIV positive pregnant women to try and save their babies from the disease, contrary to national policy.

The leader of KwaZulu Natal, Lionel Mtshali, said emergency healthcare was a constitutional right. - **Reuters** –

## **Tues 29**

Two white rugby players accused of murdering a black teenager after he was found poaching in Pietersburg, South Africa, have admitted dumping his body in a dam, but deny murdering him. Three other players also deny murder. – **GDN page 13, C 8** –

### **Wed 30**

With the interests of the patients who suffer from the effects of the HIV virus the pressure group Treatment Action Concern (qav) have become importers of medicines. Defying the South African authorities medicines have been brought in from Brazil. They are to be used by the charity Medecins sans Frontieres to treat 50 such patients in Khayelitsh. A shantytown outside Cape Town.

The importation of these anti retroviral, the generic form of AZT and 3TC along with Nevirapine, is to show that they can be purchased at a lower cost than that which is being offered for the purchase of the heavily discounted drugs offered by the drug companies. From Brazil, and in other countries – Thailand and India – prices quoted, in the case of the named three was down from \$3. 20 / £2. 27 to \$1. 55 per day.

## **FEBRUARY 2002**

### **Mon 4**

A female hippopotamus attacked and killed a woman who was photographing its calf in the Kruger national park, South Africa, police said yesterday. Hippos kill more people in Africa than any other wild mammal. – *Reuters* –

### **Thurs 7**

The death toll from a train crash near the port city of Durban climbed to 22, and officials said yesterday the accident took place shortly after a signal cable that regulates the movement of the train was stolen. – **AP** –

### **Sun 15**

The chaotic situation, to the north of the river Limpopo has meant that greater numbers of Zimbabwean nationals are attempting to flee south. Figures released, in the last six weeks, show that 7,000 ‘illegal’ have crossed Beit Bridge to find a new life in South Africa.

In comparison, for the whole of last year only 20,000 made a similar journey, looking for a better life.

### **Mon 18**

Unhappy to sit on the sidelines as people suffering from the HIV virus go untreated Mr Mandela has written about his worries in the Johannesburg Sunday Times. The article brings together concerns of ‘notables’ such as the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town who said that the government is “sinning” by withholding truth and maintaining silence of denial” over Aids.

The former president will warn the present leadership that the time is past in debating the causes of Aids. Now is the time to fight the causes of the disease that is forecast to kill 6m South Africans by the end of the decade.

The article is partly to help the campaign, by scientists and Aids activists, to convince a government, who do not believe that the country has the infrastructure to deliver the wherewith all to combat the virus, that it does if it would only take money from the World Economic Forum’s global Aids fund. This is something the finance minister, Trevor Manule, did recently.

Following on from the newspaper article Mr Mandela wants to address the national executive committee of the ANC. The gathering will then hear their former chairman

impress on those gathered that the ANC makes collective decisions. “This talk of nation building is not just done by an individual. It is a collective effort.”

### **Tues 19**

South Africa’s wealthiest province, Gauteng, is to make available an Aids drug that halves the chance of women passing HIV to their babies at birth

Nevirapine will be given to affected women in all public hospitals despite government refusal to establish a widespread programme for the drug. – AP –

### **Wed 20**

A South African parliamentary committee said yesterday that it would press Nelson Mandela ’s former wife, Winnie M Mandela, to explain how she lives such a lavish lifestyle on her MP’s salary.

She denies failing properly to disclose her income. – *Reuters* –

### **Sat 23**

Without independent corroboration the Angolan president, A de Conceicara, told a Portuguese radio station that the Unita rebel leader Dr Jonas Savinbi, aged 61, was dead. He is reported to have been shot during a clash with the army, in the south east of the country\* . Overnight in the capital red tracer bullets fired into the air in celebration could be observed.

The president said the Unita leaders body would be brought to the capital for verification of his death. In the long term it is thought that the rebel movement, although welcomed by the president to return to political life, will wither. Those remaining in the bush will turn to banditry to survive. \*authors note - location divulged on 22/2’s World Tonight R 4 programme

### **Sun 24**

Before being brought to Angola’s capital the bullet ridden corpse of Jonas Savimbe is on display for the television cameras in the provincial town Lucusse, 600 miles south east of Luanda.

Speaking of the hold the Unita leader had over the fortunes of the war torn country, long torn by civil war, Dr G Mills, head of the Institute of International Affairs in Johannesburg indicated that “the paradox has been that as long as Savimbi was around there was somebody with whom to negotiate, but as long as he was, there would be no negotiations.

## **Mon 25**

**Obituary, Jonas Savimbi 3/8/34 – 22/02/02** was born in the central Angolan town of Munhango, the son of the first black station master in the Portuguese colonial period. Educated at missionary school, throughout to secondary school. A second scholarship saw him at Lisbon University studying medicine.

After becoming involved, in the late 1950's, to opposing the fascist rule at home, he had to flee the attention of the Portuguese secret police and with the help of the communists fled to France. In Switzerland he was able to resume, with the aid of another scholarship, his medical studies.

Once back in Angola his political choice was to eventually flirt with first the MPLA, UPA FNLA. By 1964 he was ready to form his own liberation movement - Unita along with a long time all colleague A da Costa Fernandes, from who there was a dramatic split in 1992. First contact between the rebels and the colonial army was on 25/12/66.

As is well documented, through the author's diaries, the actions of Unita and of this nationalist kept Angola at war – far longer than was necessary.

## **Wed 27**

In a new mood of openness BP, the world's third largest independent producer of oil has disclosed that in 2000 a sum of \$11m to secure oil production rights in Block 34 in the Atlantic was paid to the Luanda government, (qv 11/6).

This admission has brought representations from officials of Sonangol, the state owned oil producer, who wants to know why the money did not appear in the accounts. After an investigation they also promise as yet unspecified action against the company.

Of greater concern, to the finances of the war torn country, and to officials of the International Monetary Fund, is a further \$1bn of revenue missing from state coffers. British Petroleum's frank admission comes at the behest of the human rights pressure group Global Witness.

News item, over the last 48 hours there has been mention, of a summit meeting of the president of Angola and E dos Santos and F Chissano the president of Mozambique with the president of the United States. The aim of this regional meeting is to try and kick start a peace deal with the rebel movement in Angola. - **World Service, 5am, R4 -**

Also at the same time it has been reported, same source, that Savimbi's deputy has taken over president. He is now moving among his military commanders in the field. Africa awaits further developments.

## MARCH 2002

### Fri 1

If the prevalence of Aids, experienced by workers in an unnamed mining company, is the norm then the infection rate throughout the structure of South African Breweries will be as follows; unskilled workers 31%, 41% semi – skilled, 8% at supervisory level. Of the senior managers only 3.9% will be HIV infected.

To combat the spread executives at the company invoke an Aid for Aid campaign. This educates employees as to the transmission of the virus. It highlights use of condoms and effective sexual health. Probably of most benefit s a free hand out of anti retroviral drugs. With the cost falling from R3, 000 / £185 to R 600 per month, it is in the interest of the company, at the moment., to pay this price.

South African Breweries; the economic facts the 5<sup>th</sup> largest beer producer in the world. 50% of the profits come from within South Africa, where they have a market share of 90%. Worlds biggest brewer in developing markets, operating in 12 African countries, 6 in Eastern Europe, China, India and a recent venture in Latin America. Head office in Belgravia, although the nearest brewery is in the Czech Republic. Floated on the London Stock Exchange in 1999 and is a member of the FTSE 100 Index with profits of \$646m and sales of \$4, 18bn in 2001.

**Cartoon**, driver to petrol pump attendant “20 gallons of sleaze free please” – in referance to amounts of cash paid by BP to be allowed to drill for oil in Angola’s territorial waters – **GDN page 25** –

### Sun 3

Named as the new leader of Unita Antonio Dembo, one of the late Jonas Savimbi’s deputies, has called on the Luanda government to show an act of good faith if they want an end to the civil war. The new leader would like an election timetable and an amnesty before he will talk of surrender. In response the president said that the rebels should make the first move to “build bridges so that as soon as possible we can achieve a cease fire.

Some doubt that the Angolan president wants an end to the fighting. If peace was to reign throughout the country then the spotlight would turn on how dos Santos was running Angola. From within the MPLA younger members would push for, a long delayed, general election. With Unita still at war voting would be impossible. This would allow the ruling party to enjoy the perks of power indefinitely. – **The Economist page 62** –

Leader Comment, **After Savimbi** “this is Angola’s best chance of peace for a decade.” It is time for the international community – especially the Americans - to come together and use their influence to seek and end to this military conflict.

The onus is on the USA – Angola’s largest purchaser of its oil products – who turned from being a friend of the anti communist Savimbi, while the cold war was on, to the dos Santos’s way of thinking as the cold war ended.

“America owes Angola a debt of honour [it] helped to create Savimbi and so bears some moral responsibility to clearing up after him. Mr Bush should spare a thought for the 3.5m ragged refugees who would love to return home. They can do so only if the war ends; and he can help to end the war. – ditto page 14 –

### **Thurs 7**

There is still a vast difference of treatment of the different social levels of black women, whether middle class or domestic worker. It was a shock to the writer Thui Nhalpo who was all concern for her own domestic worker at her middle class home in Johannesburg. Never giving too much concern as to the mechanics of how she arrived at her home to perform her duties as well as have care for her own children ‘back home’.

It was a shock when she moved to Mpumalanga province and encountered another domestic, Maria, struggling after leaving a public hospital after an encounter with a group of men. After being raped, 3 times, HIV positive, broken arm and a smashed in skull. No job, here madam had replaced her from her R450 / £28 pounds, employment as she was taking too long to recuperate.

Circumstances like these are not uncommon, say the spokesman for the Greater Nespruit Intervention project [Gripe]. However the number of rape victims is on the increase, along with the level of violence.

“Things have changed in South Africa for educated black women but our poorer sisters still have no choices and their voices remain unheard.”

### **Sun 10**

Letters, [1] **R H Black Johannesburg** the well documented actions of Mbeki concerning Aids (qv) would be seen by opponents of his regime as a crime if he led a white regime. The inaction by his government is no less a crime against humanity than was all too apparent during the rule of the National Party.

[2] **P M K Hyde, London** Mr Mbeki should be left to ponder whatever Aids is? With \$93bn spent no cures – vaccines of new drugs. All that there is an abundance of id propaganda. – **The Economist page 18 –**

### **Tues 12**

The high court has ruled that from now on the anti retroviral drugs needed by pregnant HIV infected women must be provided for them by the state. The ruling follows the



decision by the high court concerning a nine month old child suffering from Aids (qv 20/10).

At this hearing the court has ruled that the government can appeal to the constitutional court. However it must begin dispensing these class of drugs to all those that want them.

### **Thurs 14**

The head of the South African observer mission to, its neighbours elections, has declared them "legitimate." S Motsuenyane also said that the international community should leave Zimbabwe alone, "as the people of Zimbabwe have spoken."

Other monitor teams from the region – Namibia "elections were watertight, without room for rigging." Observers from the OAU hailed the elections as "transparent credible, free and fair."

A critical verdict, from MP's from the Southern African Development Community said events did not meet their basic standards for democratic elections. This was because of the state sponsored violence, and voter roll irregularity.

The Angolan rebel movement Unita said through its spokesman in Lisbon last night that it was considering its response to the governments announcement yesterday of an immediate cease fire in the 27 year old civil war. – *Reuters* –

### **Sun 17**

The Angolan government declared a truce with Unita rebels, two weeks after the death of rebel leader Jonas Savimbi. – *IOS page 2, C 8* –

As the perceived saviour of the Southern African region Thabo Mbeki will show his true metal in the next few days. His reputation will be made, or it will be tarnished, after the decision is made on the Commonwealth's response to the Mugabe's stolen victory at the recent presidential elections. To stick by decisions voiced immediately after the close of the ballot – the people of Zimbabwe have made their choice – or to take wiser council and call, as surely other committee members will, for sanctions. That is the South African president's dilemma.

### **Mon 18**

With the coming moves, on the diplomatic front involving Thabo Mbeki, the South African president, has a tightrope to walk if he wants to be see his renaissance of the African continent come to fruition.

The plan, the New Partnership for African Development; Nepad has as its core principal of holding of each of the African continent's leaders to "good governance, democratic

principals and holding one another accountable in exchange for western financial and technical assistance.

The plan, which is backed by the British prime minister, has to be endorsed by other leaders – principally the United States. The dilemma facing those in the west is that even before the ‘ink is dry’ on any Nepad agreement across the River Limpopo there has been a recent election where the stated principal has already been breached.

## **We 20**

With the ‘right decision’ made by the South African president, Thabo Mbeki, the future of New Partnership for African Development, the grand plan of his that the African continent’s renaissance can come to fruition, has passed its first test.

As part of the troika that allowed for the suspension of Zimbabwe, he has shown that there was no great liking for his northern neighbour, when the future of his plan was considered against the great scheme of things.

## **Fri 29**

After two weeks of intense negotiations, in the Angolan city of Luena in the east of the country, the government in Luanda and the rebel movement are at a point that the ‘principals’ of the warring factions can sign a peace treaty. This would end the twenty seven year state of civil war that exists in the country.

However as more details were being announced by the deputy foreign minister, G Chicoti in Geneva, there were reports of a Unita bomb attack in Cubal near the port city of Benguala. In the radio report, from the Roman Catholic Ecclesia station, it is said that 15 people have died.

Speaking from Geneva, where he was attending the annual UN conference on Human Rights, Mr Chicoti said that although there had been reports of such incidents he did not expect them to stop the commitment towards peace.

Negotiators on the rebel side were led by P ‘Gato’ Lakumba, secretary general along with regional Unita leaders. Of General A Dembo (qv) there has been little heard off since – as Savimbi’s number two it would be expected that he would become leader of the rebel movement – **The Jordan Times page 8, C 7 -**

## APRIL 2002

### Mon 1

It has been reported that, as a prelude to a formal end to the Angolan civil, war a cease fire agreement has now been signed. Speaking as one of the signatories the MPLA 's army chief of staff, General G Nunda, said both sides now want peace. "This demonstrates our will to create a better country for our children and our descendants."

It appears contrary to earlier speculation that the head of Unita is not just one man. Rather the rebel movement his run by a management committee; General A M Ukawa Chitembo; the groups secretary general P Lukamba (qv), A Sakala, a lawyer and C Kapapelo.

### Tues 2

As the Constitutional Court begins its hearings, within 24 hours, of a government challenge to a high court ruling into the provision of drugs to fight the Aids virus (qv 12/3) there is much controversy still to be explained. Some people would go, as far as to say to supply anti retroviral drugs is a form of genocide.

This, nonsensical approach to western eyes, has come from a report from the fire brand P Mokabu ANC MP, which in itself was written in response to Mr Mandela's interview with the press in 2001 (qv 11/12). Also within the 114 page report are claims that his adoptive mother with anti retroviral drugs poisoned Nkosa Johnson (qv).

### Fri 5

With the knowledge that the assumed leader of Unita, A Dembo (qv) died of diabetes nine days after replacing Jonas Savimbi, the new interim leader P Lukamba faced each other in the parliament building in the Angolan capital of Luanda. They then signed a formal end to the 27 year long civil war that has ravaged the country.

As to the state of the country a British based human rights group, Global Witness, says one Angolan child dies every three minuets from a preventable disease. Because of the size of the reconstruction needed the United Nations is looking for £140m from the international community.

South Africa's highest court has upheld a decision forcing the government to offer Nevirapine to HIV infected pregnant women during childbirth.

Yesterday's ruling was the latest defeat for the health department, which says it has neither the money nor infrastructure for a nation wide anti Aids programme, but the government has agreed to comply. – *Reuters* –

## **Thurs 11**

As the end of the trial of Dr W Basson (qv) draws to a close serious questions should be asked about the impartiality of the trial judge and his ability to reach the correct verdict. Notwithstanding that the presiding judge, Judge W Hartsenberg, is the brother of a former leader of the National Party. Second, rather than have the help of lay assessors sits alone.

Other than that Mr Justice Hartzenburg has taken it upon himself to throw out some of the more serious charges, and downgrade others.

## **Fri 12**

As widely predicted Dr W Basson (qv 11/4) has been cleared of all 41 charges; which had been reduced, on the judges orders, from 67 during the trial which began in 1999. Reading from the 1400 page judgment Mr Justice Hartzenberg provided few details to back up his decision.

The main thrust of the judge's argument was that the 57 year old cardiologist goes free because " the state did not prove its case beyond reasonable doubt. This is how criminal courts work. The state did not prove the case. The government is to mount an appeal against the acquittal.

## **Fri 19**

The Constitutional Court has ruled in favour of the action brought by the pressure group Treatment Action Concern. Pretoria has done a U-turn. The South African health ministry will, within 6 months, after 18 pilot schemes provide the drug Nevirapine (qv) to the nations pregnant HIV positive women. Such availability of this vital drug to stem the spread of Aids could be by 12/02.

The government's earlier misgivings about supplying such medicines were their alleged toxicity. This admission was in contrast to the perceived notion that the authorities concerns were having the money and infrastructure to distribute them throughout the country.

As a formality the government has said that the ruling by the court will be challenged in the appeal court.

## **Sat 20**

At the conclusion of a trial involving five members of the white rugby club three of the defendants have been found not guilty of the 2001 killing of T Matloha (qv 7/4). As the verdicts were announced one of those in the dock showed at the verdict. Sentences will be delivered on 30/4.

In Pretoria high court Judge B Ngoepe had considered the evidence over 3 days before reaching his decision that only the team captain, Ryan Both the team captain and Ben Korff were guilty of the death of the 19 year old who was out hunting rabbits with two friends.

### **Thurs 25**

After completing the training necessary for space travel Mark Shuttleworth (qv 6/1) has blasted off into space aboard a Soyuz rocket. With his four Russian companions their mission is to dock with the international Space station and deliver a back up emergency escape vehicle.

Commenting on the mission the former president, Nelson Mandela said that the 28 year old internet millionaire could be referred to as an 'Afronaut'.

### **Sun 28**

All is not well with the perceived notion of the new National Park; the Great Limpopo Trans Frontier an area that crosses the country's borders with Mozambique and Zimbabwe. It has now been revealed that the 30 elephants released last year (qv 5/10) have made a crashing return to South Africa's Kruger National Park, from where they were taken. They were expected to settle in Mozambique.

The city of Durban is to play host to Africa's first opera, to be premiered later this year. The subject is to be the life and times of the mother of the chief minister Mangosuthu Buthelezie. The beloved mother, Princess M Buthelezie, was a legendary musician and composer. M Khumalo, a leading expert on Zulu culture and Britain M Hankinson will compose the 2002 operatic offering. The production will be broadcast from New Zealand to the United States and throughout Europe.

In order to appeal to this world wide audience some of the Princesses works will be sung in English as well as the spoken word heard.

## **Mon 7**

After ten days in space, on board a Soyuz craft, M Shuttleworth (qv) has returned to earth. Landing at the Kazakhstan Star City the proclaimed 'Afronaut' (qv 25/4) said that he was well pleased with his time out of earth's atmosphere.

After the normal parachute landing, which he described as "much more shaky than going up", the 28 year old was greeted by his parents. Having been lifted from the craft, and standing on the ground he told of experiments he carried out while weightless. They were to further the understanding, and help find a cure for the Aids; the scourge of South Africa and the whole African continent.

## MAY 2002

### Wed 1

**Obituary, Steve Tshwete 19 11 1938 – 26 4 2002** born in a village on the Wiwatersrand in the former province of Transvaal. Educated Peelson village, near King Williams town and then finishing at Welsh high school, East London University education; philosophy and English at the University of South Africa.

Taking a keen interest in the game of rugby, from his school days, his first job was as a sports administrator opposed to the Nationalist government of the day. Politically he joined the ANC in the 1950's, going underground when the movement was banned. Joined Umkhonto we Siswe and from 1963 spent 15 years on Robben Isle for his political beliefs.

On his release, in 1979, banished to Ciskei where he continued his opposition to the Nationalist government. In at the beginning of the United Democratic Front where he was active in speaking and organising protests, often violent, and attending funerals of those killed.

Fled the country, to appear again in 1985 at the Lusaka headquarters of the ANC. Given the position of political commissar to the UK he formed an alliance with Chris Hanu (qv). Whilst in Zambia he met and conferred with the policeman who arrested him, who was now opposed to apartheid, and leading a delegation of 'liberal whites' who were intent on starting a dialogue with the ANC. Other meetings he helped set up were ones in Senegal and Paris. At these places influential white Afrikaners could meet with 'the opponents' away from the Nationalists.

Following 1994's multi party elections, in government he served as the sports minister in the Mandela cabinet. Under Mbeki he was used as a settler of disputes and a minister of safety and security he was making headway in the fight against crime.

The boy from a village, in what is now Gauteng province, died of pneumonia and kidney failure after spinal surgery.

### Fri 3

Two white rugby players were each sentenced to 18 years in jail yesterday for the murder of a black man in one of South Africa's biggest race trials since apartheid ended eight years ago. Rian Botha and Ben Korff were convicted in April of murdering Tsopo Mathoa 19, in March last year.

Judge B Ngope, said the state could not prove the attack was racist but called it "cowardly." – *Reuters* -

#### **Sat 4**

According to the United Nations Populations Division/UNICEF the projected number of deaths due to the Aids Virus, among the under 5's, for the years 2000 – 2005 is 50% of this age group. – *graphic; GDN page 22 -*

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#### **Tues 14**

Letter, **Malusi Mahlulo, South African High Commission London** understanding the president's commitment to research into the causal links between the HIV virus and Aids has seen Pretoria allot an extra R1bn to finance a strategic plan to combat the disease. From this R30m is earmarked to enable research to find a vaccine.

As for the use, or non use of Nevepaine (qv) this anti retroviral drug is being used at 18 sites of research and tested on patients at associated 230 clinics and hospitals.

#### **Thurs 16**

The UK has been accused of poaching nurses at the expense of poor nations. Figures released by the Nursing and Midwifery Council show that in the 12 months up to the end of 3/002, 114 nurses and midwives came to work in Britain. As a whole, 13,721 overseas nurses, a 63% rise of the previous 12 months was registered.

It is becoming apparent that the status of leading black scientists, with a special interest in researching the cause of the Aids virus, who 'go over' to the view that is opposed to that of the president, and his closest colleagues is questioned.

Speaking out Professor M Makoba head of the Medical Research Council (qv 17/10) has been pressurised by government ministers to keep the faith with Mbeki as to the cause of deaths among people with the HIV virus. So stongley does the administration want the dissident on side that the cabinet enforcer, E Pahad, has written letters, conducted an interview with him to get Mr Makoba to change his mind. Another 'notable' the premier of the Northern Province has accuse him of lining his own pocket and going against the 'blacks should stick together' attitude. There was even an accusation that the Professor is aligning his views with white scientists because of the kudos and respect such views earn in the wider scientific community.



### **Thurs 30**

With still no moves by British Petroleum to reveal its dealings with the Angolan government, promised in 2000 (qv 11/6), solutions are being sought that would allow other oil producers to tell on payments to a government still in the midst of a civil war.

With the cease fire signed ways must be found to exploit the ‘pot of gold’ that lies of the Angolan coast. However companies will be reluctant in this new era to seek a license if it was known that bribes had been paid for it. The ngo Global Witness suggests that an era of transparency is now appropriate. This would mean that all company payments to governments would have to be declared before said company could be listed on the worlds financial institutions – London Stock Exchange or the American Security and Exchange commission.

#### **Angola : Poverty in the midst of oil riches**

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Revenue from oil, 2001,                            | \$3 – 5bn |
| Population   | 12. 4m    |
| Life expectancy                                    | 48. 9 yrs |
| Infant mortality (under 5) male                    | 20.9%     |
| female   | 19.2%     |
| Population living in absolute poverty              | 82.5%     |
| Population living without access to drinking water | 62%       |
| health care  | 76%       |
| Disabled landmine victims                          | 86,000    |

## JUNE 2002

### Sat 1

Letter, **Essop Pahad minister in the Presidents office Pretoria** a restatement? That HIV causes Aids, from the cabinet. Spending in R1.8bn by 2004/5. At this time the budget is only R350m. There is also wide cooperation as the health department is working on a universal plan on the use of Nevezapine for mother to baby sufferers.

\* This letter was in response to the knowledge that an attack has been made on black research scientists – most notably the head of the Medical Research Council, Professor M Makoba (qv 16/5). \* authors view

Angola's Central Highlands, the long time fiefdom of Unita and Jonas Savimbi, and closed as a 'no go' area to all outsiders is now revealing its horrors.

With the ending of the civil war ngo's and aid agencies are moving cautiously into this forbidden land. The French backed Medecins sans Frontieres have opened two feeding stations in the Angolan cities Caala and Chipindo. With pictures S Salgado the full extent of those trapped there is now open to the world's view.

### Tues 4

Political discord and allegations of sexual harassment and fraud have caused turmoil in the city of Cape Town. The mayor, G Morkel of the Democratic Alliance, has relinquished his ceremonial role but has kept his political one. This shock move comes days after the Western Cape's premier, P Maries, resigned after being linked to claims of sexual harassment of one of his office staff.

On the national scene the Democratic Alliance has been accused of corruption after accepting money from a German businessman fighting extradition after being accused of stealing millions of pounds. The party, in the Western Cape, is known to have been given R1m /£72,000. However some of J Harksen's donation; £10,000 is said to have been used by the mayor to build a garage and pay five months rent on his home in the city.

A World Health Organisation conference, held outside Cape Town, has heard a plea from Africa's Aids scientists for a greater influx of donations to the continent as most of the world's sufferers are from the continent.

The conference heard from, among others, the head of South Africa's medical research council, Professor M Makoba (qv 16/5) that with the requested \$233m £164m Africa's scientists will be able to, more precisely to find a vaccine specific to the HIV virus prevalent on the continent.

At the present time two thirds, of the 40m victims of Aids, live on the continent. In contrast only 2% of the world's research budget into finding drugs that will counter the HIV virus is spent in Africa.

### **Wed 5**

Accused of taking bribes, in 2001, M Sole (qv 19/6) the former chief executive of Lesotho's state dam project has been given an exemplary 18 year jail sentence. He was found guilty of accepting millions in bribes from Canadian, British, French and other European construction companies. Two companies face trial and others may follow.

The song AmaNdyia; Zulu for "Indians," written by the well known South African composer M Ngema, has bitterly divided the ethnic Indian and black populations in the country. So strong is the criticism that it has been banned from some radio stations and it is not being sold in some stores. As well as this the former president Nelson Mandela, has called on the writer to make a public apology for the lyrics.

Accusations of the lyrics being racist, and an attack on the Indian community; 2% of the national population; who did well out of the struggle between the whites and blacks during the apartheid years.

### **Sat 8**

Photojournalist J Schadeberg arrived in South Africa aged 19, in 1950, expecting to chronicle a hot nightlife. Alas it was the moment when the dark clouds of apartheid were beginning to gather and he soon found himself with an altogether grimmer subject. The outlet for these images was for newly emerged Drum magazine (qv), where he was picture editor and staff photographer for the magazine's proprietor Jim Bailey and editor Sylvester Strein.

The book, The Black and White Fifties: Jurgen Schadeberg's South Africa is published by Protea Book House £17. In this country it can be ordered from the Photographer's Gallery Bookshop, London 020 7831 1772.

### **Mon 10**

A pre summit to a summit to be held in Johannesburg in eight weeks time looks likely to collapse without any advances made to agreements reached at the Earth summit at Rio in 1998.

This United Nations meeting on Poverty and the Environment, held on the island of Bali has again been hijacked by the rich countries at the expense of the poor nations. The United States, with 100 delegates, led among others, Australia and Canada, who refused to compromise on issues such as trade and finance. Once again the poor nations squabbled among themselves. They were not able to mount a joint strategy against such large number of votes.

### **Thurs 13**

The daughter of a convicted serial killer, who terrorised the city of East London at the height of the apartheid era, is herself facing a long prison sentence after the throat of her mother was slit by an accomplice.

Sabina Schoor, who was just a child when her father Louis van Schoor was jailed for 20 years in the late 1980's\* for the killing of people of mixed race or black who he detained as part of his job as a security guard in East London.

During the intervening years the relationship between Sabina and her mother, Beverly, began to deteriorate to an extent when the child was seen to have been injured by the mother. Also at this time relationships between the white Afrikaner and a series of black and mixed race boys were formed. As a result one abortion and a child with a black father was forthcoming. So angered was the mother that force and intimidation of all concerned was tried by the mother to end these relationships. These failed.

At the trial various witnesses were produced to substantiate the above. The court also heard that Sabina's across the ethnic border relationships were, in some way, a compensation for the actions of her father all those years ago.

\*authors note; see diary entry for 10. 7. 1992

### **Tues 18**

With the help of a lawyer in the United States a number of the victims of the apartheid regime, 1948 to 1993, have mounted a 'class action' in the American and South African courts. They are claiming \$50bn from 3 named banks; Citibank, Credit Suisse and UBS for the 3 having "profiteered from apartheid. The claim, lodged in a Manhattan court is modeled on a \$1.2bn pay out from the Swiss government for the survivors of the Holocaust.

Speaking in South Africa, D Ntsebeza, the victim's local legal representative, indicated that other companies and institutions; British Aerospace, Ford Motor Company or Barclays Bank were likely to have to defend their actions during this period. A prominent name among the claimants is L Peterson, the brother of Hector Peterson. This 12 year old Soweto school dying child was photographed and appeared worldwide as a potent symbol of the 1976 Soweto Uprising.

In Zurich the US lawyer, Ed Fagan, was unsuccessful in his attempt to serve the writ on two of the named banks. Legal opinion, on this way of settling those that still have grievances rooted in the apartheid era, is not consistent. Speaking from inside the country a representative of the Mandela Legal Institute indicated that circumstances were different. During the period of reconciliation was there not civil and criminal reconciliation? As to the actions of overseas companies and banks were they not acting within the laws of the land?

“The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (qv) was formally dissolved on 28/3 this year. Martin Coetzee, the head of the amnesty committee said amnesty was granted to 1,200 applicants and 5,500 requests were turned down. Another 150 people had received pardons for some, but not all, of all the crimes they had confessed. Coetzee said the TRC was editing a final report that would include of accounts of what had happened to 21,000 people who testified before it.

On 14/5 President Mbeki pardoned 33 South Africans, who had been refused amnesty. Most were members of the African National Congress and the Pan African Congress and had been jailed for crimes including murder – **Sir S Kentridge QC, The Times, an extract** –

### **Thurs 14**

With the intention of fostering a centuries old ideal of international harmony the former South African president, Nelson Mandela, has flown into the Greek capital of Athens. The acclaimed international statesman is to be the number one signatory to a world wide plea for an ‘Olympic truce’ – asking warring peoples to put down their weapons for the duration of the 2004 Olympic Games.

Backed by the IOC committee, to the tune of \$400,000, Mr Mandela heads a list of the “great and the good” who make this world wide plea. Such an ideal is nor without foundation. During the 1916, 1949 and 1944 hostilities were suspended. In modern time’s conflict, in Bosnia in 1994, hostilities were suspended for 24 hours. During this time Unicef to vaccinate 10,000 children.

### **Wed 26**

At this late stage, on the eve of the G8 Summit, there is still no consensus, on the African continent, as to how individual African governments will react to the South African president’s vision; enshrined in his New Partnership for African Development (qv).

Central to this new reemergence of the African continent is how individual governments that are not necessarily democratic will maintain the high standard of government that the west will demand for initial financial support for the overall plan.

Criticism has come from the Libyan leader when he called the plan just another way that the west, through its wealth, is able to recolonise the continent. Even within South Africa the plan is questioned. The secretary general of Cosatu has argued that the plan is well explained to the business community. However to the ‘man in the street’ there is only a vague one. Can there be disagreements, how are they resolved?

Statistics; Gross national income \$3,020. UK \$24, 430. Under 5’s Mortality Rates 79 per 1000. UK 7. Average years of Schooling 6.1. UK 9.4. – **GDN page 10** –

Obituary, **Lionel Bernstein, 5/3/20 – 23. 6. 02**, to all intents Lionel Rusty’ Bernstein was a respectable white architect living in Natal Province. More to the point he was

influential and had more in the way of dedication to the principal that 'all are equal' than those of a similar background would expect.

Although a member of the South African Communist Party he was a strong influence in the ANC when their Freedom Charter was adopted in 1954, even coining the influential opening slogan "Let us speak of freedom" and other notable statements – "the people shall govern" and "all shall be equal before the law."

1956 among 150 people charged, and acquitted, at the country's first treason trial. 1964 defendant, along with Nelson Mandela and others, at the so-called Rivonia trial. Eventually found not guilty of fermenting revolution along with Hilda were named as a 'banned people.'

Crossing the country's borders, illegally, they escaped to England – fictionalised in the novel "Death is Part of the Process," Grafton Books 1983, they settled in London supported by his architectural practice. During these times they were never far away from those working for the end of apartheid.

Come the unbanning of the ANC, in 1990, they were free to return to the home of their birth. In 1994 they were with, other former Rivonia trialists on the steps of the Pretoria parliament building to see Nelson Mandela sworn in.

### **Sat 29**

Residents in one of the smart outer suburbs of Cape Town, Wallacedene, want to hide from view the working class area of Kraaifontein, which lies between the city and the town of Stellenbosch, and its soon to be new 8,500 new affordable houses.

The African National Congress spokesman calls the move, to build the 340 meter; 1,115 ft electrified chain link structure apartheid's Berlin wall.

The Democratic Alliance Party council members support residents, in the not wholly white suburb. The purpose of the wall is only for security measures and to limit the effects of noise pollution.

Leader Comment, **Illusions of expectations** "The New Partnership for African Development (Nepad), agreed on by 54 of the continent's 55 states (only Libya failed to sign up), offered a way out. It needed \$64bn to work but the G8 offered just \$6bn – and only a tiny fraction of that was new money..... Without the distractions of the international agenda, rich nations could come up with something more substantial."

"Since it was elected to power in 1994, the ANC has, like any other democratic government, met criticism from the media. However the ANC has not responded well and resorted to outrageous allegations of racism against the media".

“The conclusion to be drawn from the argument that black journalists who criticise the government are sucking up to white editors and allowing themselves to be used is that black people have no brains and cannot think for themselves. It is an insult to the intelligence of all black brothers and sisters who refuse to be puppets of the leaders”. – S Chala, *Daily Mail and Guardian*, Johannesburg 26/6, *The Editor* page 6 -

## **JULY 2002**

### **Wed 3**

A former South African policeman, who had been dismissed for fraud and served a six month jail sentence, allegedly shot dead four people and wounded eight others. A 27-year-old was under arrest on suspicion of being the man who has seized three firearms at knife point from a police station in the town of Postmasburg on Monday night. *Reuters*

### **Thurs 4**

Heidelberg, a suburb of industrial Johannesburg, has seen the death of six initiates who seek the traditional way for a young South African into manhood. The deaths occurred after faulty circumcisions carried out by 'elders' who, in some cases, were not fully trained in the procedure.

The latest victim P Mbvane aged 19 died, says the post mortem report, as a result of kidney failure. Investigators have found out that those carrying out the procedure had had little or no training. They were not fit to work. The evidence of beatings, on some of the victims, was a reproduction of the violence shown to the 'healers' when they themselves made the journey from youth to man.

Nationwide the situation; in the Eastern Cape 13 initiates were hospitalised. In Limpopo province 100 youths were treated for septic wounds. The Gauteng health authority has now closed three of the schools, with the worst record for mutilations, in and around Johannesburg.

### **Sat 6**

In a land mark ruling, some say the most significant since its inception, the constitutional court has ruled that despite a government appeal, on a high court ruling (qv 12/3), that the government must provide the drug nevirapine in state hospitals.

The ruling; "[The] government is ordered without delay to remove the restrictions that prevent Nevirapine from being made available for the purpose of reducing the mother to child transmission of HIV at public hospitals and clinics that are not research and training sites."

### **Mon 8**

The projected life expectancy, by 2010, if the Aids epidemic had not struck, if Aids continue to ravage these specified southern African nations; Angola 41.3 [35] Botswana 74.4 [26.7], Lesotho 67.2 36.5, Mozambique 42.5 [27.1], Namibia 68.5 [33.8] South Africa 68.4 [36.5], Swaziland [74.6] and Zimbabwe [71.4 [34.6].



### Wed 10

In a Pretoria court house Winnie M Mandela appeared yesterday to answer fraud charges (qv 15/10), in that along with her financial advisor, A Moolan, she obtained loans for 'phantom employees' of the ANC's women's league. The money obtained from the Saabou Bank; £36,000 was then transferred to the personnel bank account of the former wife of the president.

Throughout South Africa the women is loved by the 'masses' but scorned by the 'intelligentsia.' Newspaper columnists pose the question why is this woman so loved by the people? they would rather her speak at the funeral of P Mokoba, an activist, than the present head of the women's league; answering the question with this, "the cynical manipulation of the plight of the sentiments of the country's poor".

### Thurs 11

African heads of state, meeting in the coastal town of Durban, have decided that the work of the Organisation of African Unity has had its day. They have decided to invent a new cross continent body; African Unity.

At this inaugural meeting the continent leaders changed its name, but left any discussion of war, Aids and drought of the agenda. Up for consideration, proposed by the Libyan leader, was the possibility that the 50 plus individual administrations would all become one country of Africa. This unlikely move was put on the agenda of the next meeting, in 6 months time, to forestall any criticism of Nepad (qv) from Colonel Gaddafi.

Television programme; When Parkinson Met Mandela, BBC1 22 35 – 23 05, \*a missed opportunity to place on record the former president's thoughts on subjects close to his heart. A main issue covered is the world's necessity to put the Aids crisis at the top of the world agenda. \* authors note

### Fri 12

**Obituary, Norma Kitson, 18. 8. 1933 – 12. 7. 2002** notably known for awakening of the apartheid struggle to the streets of London, with the formation of the City of London Anti Apartheid Group. Having broken away from the Anti Apartheid Movement they set up a picket outside the South African embassy in Trafalgar Square. This continuous presence was maintained until the eve of majority rule was established.

With Jewish and Afrikaner parents she was educated at a Johannesburg boarding school and then went to work in a gold mine as a secretary. Naturally rebellious she joined the SACP, becoming a printer. Married David, an engineer from Durban she was fostered into the world of the anti apartheid activist. Banned and exiled to London, whilst the husband was serving political inspired jail terms on Robben Island. Honoured as 'veterans of the struggle' the Kitson's however chose to settle in the Zimbabwean capital of Harare.

**Peter Mokaba, 7. 1. 1959 – 9. 7. 2002** notable as a young firebrand of the youth wing of the ANC and notable for the slogan ‘Kill the Boer, kill the farmer’ used at a political gathering after the assassination of C Hani (qv) by a white right winger.

Born in the former Transvaal province and educated at Hwit high school and a leader of the generation politicised by the 1976 schools uprising. During the 1970’s he faced many run ins with the police. However he remained free of convictions no matter how they tried to curtail his political activities.

Come 1994 Mokaba served the Mandela administration as deputy minister of environment and tourism. In the Mbeki government he played no ministerial role, other than as a member of parliament. His death, from acute pneumonia, some say was a ‘blind’ to the fact that the death would be attributed to the HIV virus. Ironic this, as the MP was forthright in his belief in the first utterances of his president that the Aids virus did not cause deaths.

### **Sat 13**

A joint venture, between the education department and the South African Broadcasting Corporation, will attempt to make the under fives aware of the dangers of the Aids virus. The writers of the puppet based Takalani Sesame is to introduce a character that is HIV positive. The popular television programme is based on the United State’s produced Sesame Street.

The character is likely to be introduces as a 5 year old orphaned girl puppet. The issues that will be raised are likely to be the issues involved in dealing with an open cut – from a finger, as like as not. There will no mention of the sex and drug injecting transmission of HIV.

Closing the 13<sup>th</sup> International Aids conference in Barcelona Nelson Mandela made an impassioned speech and challenged international and business leaders to put the fight against the Aids virus at the top of their agenda.

“Aids is killing more people than were killed by all the past wars and natural disasters.” It has orphaned 13.5 million children already and was ready to orphan 25m by 2010.

### **Wed 17**

Notwithstanding the awarding of a contract between Britain’s British AeroSpace and Pretoria for the supply of Hawk military jets (qv), other stipulations in the final contract have not been fulfilled.

According to an investigation, by a parliamentary inquiry into the equipment of the South African military, various options that would assist the unemployed black have not materialised. Among these was the local manufacture of power station parts for export to Zimbabwe. The cost to BAE Systems would have been £270m. There was other high

finance/local employment chances that were not taken up by the British firm. Even low cost £16m; the building of a 'local industrial park' to manufacture small engineering parts did not come to fruition.

In response both the Pretoria government and BAE Systems make optimistic sounds that the benefits will come. It is early days, the contract has 11 years to run, benefits will be felt in the second half of the contract.

### **Fri 19**

**Obituary, Percy Yutar 29.7. 1911 – 13. 7. 2002** born in Cape Town to immigrant parents, one of eight children, he gained note as the prosecutor at the so-called Rivoena trial (qv). His other claims to fame were becoming South Africa's first Jewish attorney general in 1976. Serving in Johannesburg alongside Ismail Mahomet who was to become the chief justice after the country's first multi racial elections.

### **Mon 22**

The stubborn stance, by the authorities in Pretoria, could jepodise a funding claim that will provide care for the victims of the HIV virus. The provincial government of KwaZulu Natal has applied directly to the UN's Global Fund for Aids Malaria and TB for a part of the £100m gifted by Britain and other western governments.

National government, in the shape of the health minister, Dr T Msimang, make the case that any grants should be distributed through from the centre. Pressure groups, like Treatment Action Concern (qv) say direct funding to national government is open to abuse, with other 'pet projects' of ministers being funded instead.

### **Thurs 25**

Comments made by J Cronin, the deputy general secretary of the South African Communist Party eight months ago, on the internet to an Irish academic, have been put forward to show a growing rift between government allies. To make the point of his disapproval the president was 'otherwise engaged' at the time when he was invited to open the annual congress.

Behind this rebuke was the thoughts that some in the SACP voiced the opinion that the government, mainly the ANC, were becoming to bureaucratic, and in danger of only serving the new black elite rather than the mass of the people. To carry out this policy would endanger the ANC taking on the mantle of Zanu PF across its northern border.

Such is the anger felt, within the SACP, that seats on the party's central committee held by members of the cabinet are at risk. These include the position of the 'cabinet enforcer' E Pahad and C Nqakula an Mbeki ally and the current chairman of the Communist party.

To add to the government's problems Cosatu, the countries main trade union body, is likely to call for a general strike in 10/02. Members would be asked to protest at the increasing privatisation policy of the government.

Despite these differences the three legs of the government will 'hang together.' Without the ANC the communists would have little representation in parliament. For the presidents part to lose the support of alliance members would see the formation of a political party (qv 23/10) with a more radical stance than that of its own.

### **Sat 27**

A judicial inquiry into the prison service has received damning video evidence of numerous illegal acts perpetrated by warders at Grootvlei Prison in the town of Bloemfontein. Prison inmates made using four micro cameras – the secretly made –. According to one their intention was to follow their presidents call for 2002 to be designated "year of the volunteer."

Once made the evidence was passed to the governor, T Setlaai, passed it to the authorities. In evidence to the inquiry Mr Setlai was told, by an official at the department of correction to destroy the incriminating footage. To have it in the wider domain; it did reached the media would harm the service, the government and the country.

Such was the row that the governors disclosures made; he was sacked. Only the threat, by him, of legal action against his employers was he re instated. Of the 20 warders shown performing their illegal acts; smuggling brandy earned one warder £400. Others were shown selling drugs, providing youths for sex and allowing a convict, with no medical knowledge to practice in the prison hospital where no action has been taken.

On the four whistleblowers 23 hour lock ups were imposed. There was also accusations of beatings and attempts at poisoning some of their number.

A man was jailed for life yesterday for raping\* a nine month old girl, a case which highlighted South Africa's high level of child abuse. The girl had reconstructive surgery after the attack by David Potse, 23, near Uppington 250 miles from Johannesburg. – **AP** –

\* authors note see 15. 11. 2001

### **Mon 29**

Intensifying his support for those who call for the government to change its attitude towards those that are infected with the Aids virus the former president, Nelson Mandela has visited and hugged an HIV positive activist.

The gay, former male prostitute, Z Achmat, is the leader of the pressure group Treatment Action Concern (qv) which has forced the government to instigate a drug policy for Aids affected sufferers after going through the courts. To highlight his personal campaign for such changes Mr Achmat has refused any form of drug treatment for himself.

Voters at the end of the annual congress of the South African Communist Party have dealt a blow to the Mbeki administration. Challenged from the floor E Pahad, minister in the president's office, and J Radebe, the minister of public enterprise lost their seats on the central Committee. However there was no challenger to the position of party chairman C Nqakula; safety and security secretary in the cabinet.

## AUGUST 2002

### Sun 4

King Mswati of Swaziland enraged his parliament by buying a 40m pound [English] private jet with funds meant to aid the economy and the hunger. – IOS page 4, C 8 –

### Tues 6

The World Summit on World Economic Development is scheduled to take place in Johannesburg from 26/8 to 4/9. Its purpose is to review the progress made after the first Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro Brazil in 1992. Billed as the worlds largest ever conference; 65, 000 delegates will be protected by 27, 000 police. There are 174 countries represented. 106 heads of government, including Tony Blair, will be attending. The delegation from London has been cut from 100 to 70. The BBC expects to send a team of 100 to cover the event.

Alongside this gathering a second conference will run. Its theme will be the environment and its development. Also there will be an industrial element to the deliberations.

### Wed 7

The London based Anglo American Corporation, the South African mining giant, is one of an increasing number of companies who have taken the initiative in the fight against the Aids virus that is so crippling their workforce.

To its workforce, who are not covered by any other medical scheme it is to offer anti retroviral drugs. As the cost of treatment is R1, 700 per month company costs for an estimated 90, 000 staff would be prohibitive. It is hoped some reduction in price, for bulk purchases, can be agreed with the drug's manufacturers.

Other companies who are running similar schemes are; BHP Biliton Shell, South African Breweries (qv 1/3) and Daimler Chysler. All told through the various schemes 127, 000 workers will receive the required drugs.

The trial has begun in Cape Town of L Trombonist aged 21 a security guard who worked for M de Klerk and who is accused of killing her (qv 7/12). After giving identification evidence, of a watch belonging to his former wife, found in the accused possession, the former president said that neither he nor members of his family would attend the trial on a regular basis. – AP – adb

## **Thurs 8**

Speaking at his companies annual results briefing the chief executive of BHP Billinton the world's largest diversified mining group, B Gilbertson, spoke out against the indiscriminate handing out of anti retroviral drugs to company employees who were HIV positive. Such a company was named within the last 24 hours; Anglo American.

According to the chief executive of the company, who itself was said to hand out these drugs to 14% of its 15, 000 workforce, to do so in this way was "obviously not the solution," only a way of prolonging the life of the individual concerned. In comparison of the 90, 000 workforce of Anglo American 23% had been tested positive for the HIV virus.

Away from the issue of Aids company profits fell by 12% before exceptional 's of \$1.93bn/ £1.25bn. The outlook for future trading was down 7% to \$17.8bn.

## **Fri 9**

The lawyer E Fagin, who is retained by a South African legal team, to claim compensation for victims of the apartheid regime (qv 18/6) has moved the action to a court in New York in the pursuit of compensation for the victims of that era. This initial hearing, in the Manhattan courtroom is to seek the establishment of a fund capable of making individual compensation payments and broader social investments.

Having previously failed to serve writs on two Swiss owned banks compensation of \$100bn, £65bn, is sought from other multi national companies who had plants in the country during that period. These include, as well as the two Swiss banks, the Royal Dutch Shell Oil Company, IBM and the Citicorp bank.

Named as a claimant is S Mpendulo an anti apartheid campaigner whose two sons were killed by South African death squads in 1993.

Reaction, from within the country, from those who support the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission say that to seek any payments is an anathema to its work. However the former chairman Desmond Tutu, says the claim should be made as "they should pay, they can afford it." A spokesman for Shell SA says that the company was vocal in its opposition to apartheid and at the time was vigorously in opposition to the concept of apartheid.

## **Thurs 15**

Much to the embarrassment of the authorities in Israel the former president of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, has been asked to observe the trial of a member of the Palestine legislative council and an official of the Fatah movement.

Charged with counts of murder and terrorism, M Barghouti, is seen by the former leader of the ANC as being in a similar position to him at the time of the Rivoena trial in

Johannesburg. Quoting the world's most famous political prisoner "What is happening to Bargouti is exactly the same as what happened to me. The government tried to de – legitimise the African National Council and its armed struggle by putting it on trial."

Mozambique, in the midst of an acute hunger crisis, accepted a shipment of genetically modified food. The African country had previously expressed concern about taking the modified maize. – AP –

### **Wed 28**

**Cartoon** President Mbeki leads international aid donors; USA, Australia, Canada and Japan at gunpoint across the African grasslands, thus implying that after the current World Summit on Economic Development taking place in Johannesburg greatly increased amounts of assistance must be given to the third world from the first.

### **Sat 31**

As the mid point of the World Economic Summit, taking place in Johannesburg (qv), arrives the main point to concern this diarist is that Treatment Action Concern, the pressure group fighting for those suffering from the HIV virus, has gone continent wide. At the 'alternative summit', running alongside the international event, word has spread of the effectiveness of such an initiative.

Nelson Mandela, former political prisoner and state president, has taken up artist materials to aid his children 's charity. As a result of his work with crayons and sketchbook images of the view from his cell window on Robben Island will go on sale in London.

On exhibition; the Black and White at London's Belgravia gallery, the lithograph prints, at 2ft in length, will be sold for £1,700.



## SEPTEMBER 2002

### Mon 2

As the British prime minister travels to the World Economic Summit in the Sanderton suburb of Johannesburg a stopover was made in Maputo the capital of Mozambique. During his time in the city he had talks with president Chissano, on the ongoing fight against corruption that hinders the work of the president.

Out in the capital Mr Blair visited Beira central hospital which caters for the 7 million people who live in the north of the country, where life expectancy is only 47 years. To care for these numbers there are only 230 nurses and have these 16 have died and another 20 are very ill with malaria and Aids.

On a visit to Dongo township the prime minister stopped at a women 's clinic that provided free condoms – an allocation of the countywide distribution of 13m donated by the charity Population Services International – to try and bring down the 23% of the population that ate HIV positive nationwide.

### Tues 3

As the prime minister arrived in Johannesburg to attend the World Economic Summit after his stopover in Mozambique (qv 2/9) he was forced to listen to a concerted attack on his governments, and previous ones, and their colonialist attitude to the continent of Africa.

The attack was launched by the president of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe, who heads a government that is running a long campaign against white farmers, linked to land ownership\*. Among the presidents most vocal supporters was the president of Namibia, Sam Nujama, who gained the ire of Mr Blair as he attacked Britain's former colonial policies in his own country and others who were settled by emigrants from Britain. Remarks like these were also supported by many other black leaders, who individually - Mozambique, Nigeria and even South Africa have criticised Zimbabwe for its actions. \* authors note; see appropriate file

To allow, as chairman Mbeki did, this sustained ganging up on the prime minister could be counter productive for the African continent as Mr Blair seems to be Africa's only friend; in the international field at the moment. Who was it that pushed for international support for South Africa's New Partnership for African Development?

## **Fri 6**

Shamed, by criticism that drugs needed by HIV sufferers were too expensive, the British drugs firm GlaxoSmithKline indicated that from now on patients in need of these drugs would find they were cheaper in price. However campaigners pointed out that generic drugs, from Thailand, were still more affordable than those now being offered were.

The change of heart by the company is associated with the promise that some of South Africa's largest employers, Anglo American et al, were willing to provide anti retroviral drugs to their employees (qv). With these economies of scale sales of the Aids drug Combivir have risen tenfold thus allowing its price to fall to \$1.70 a day.

## **Tues 10**

One year on from the attacks on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, the economic stance can be summarized thus – GDP 2.2%, Share price –7%, Inflation rate 10%.

Ten whites accused of plotting to overthrow the South African government were remanded yesterday until 14/10, when a trial date will be set. – *Reuters* –

## **Sun 15**

“The much lamented departure of the charismatic South African high commissioner Cheryl Carolus, to take up her post as director of tourism back home, left a hard act to follow for her replacement, Lindiwe Mabuza, the second woman and the first Zulu in the job.

Sceptics who have doubted Carolus's credentials were left mumbling in their beards as Tony Blair lavished affection on the fiery Cape activist. But Mabuza, is a career diplomat and performance poet, is no less formidable.

Her reception featured African opera singers, a German piano quartet and a stirring recital of Mabuza's own eulogy to the late ANC leader Oliver Tambo.” – **P Hoare, IOS page 23, C 8** –

## **Wed 18**

In an effort to stem the Aids pandemic ravaging South Africa, a new Muppet, Kami, appeared on the country's Sesame Street show yesterday in the form of a fluffy five year old orphan living with HIV. – *Reuters* –

## **Thurs 19**

The out of court settlement negotiated by lawyers acting for former employees of Cape plc in 2001 (qv 23/12) is on the point of collapse. Having failed to meet agreed deadlines for the payment of two installments lawyers have applied for a trial date in the London high court.

According to a spokesman for the firm representing the 7, 500 former asbestos workers – and their kin – what has been indicated is that Cape is committed to the agreed settlement. However they do not know when the funds will be available or how much there will be to go around. It is expected a full hearing will take place in 2003.

Following the conviction and jailing of M Sole (qv 5/6), the former chief executive of a highland dam building project in Lesotho, his bribers have also been found guilty of making the payment that saw him jailed for 10 years.

The engineering company, Acres International based in Ontario Canada was one of a number of international companies that were successful in tendering for the building project. In the Lesotho high court, on 17/9, the judge fined the company \$260, 000 [168, 000 pounds English].

There will be further trials of conglomerate members. Names to be noted are the British companies Alexander Gibb and Balfour Beatty as well as the French company Spies Batignolles.

The World Bank, who acts to oversee such projects, will study the trial transcript before making any decision on sanctions. Open to them is to debar any company who has been found of paying to win contracts from tendering in the future for such building projects.

## OCTOBER 2002

### Tues 1

News item, on the eve of the threatened Cosatu call for a general strike, scheduled to last over the next 48 hours, both the principals stated their case on the radio. – **World Service, R4, 5am** –

The impoverished country of Swaziland, which is suffering a serious food crisis, announced that it was abandoning a plan to buy the king a 29 million pound jet. – **AP** –

### Wed 2

South Africans began a two day national strike against privatisation yesterday prompting the most serious rift so far with President Mbeki's coalition.

With the jobless total running at 30% the 2 million members union congress, Cosatu, are fighting the ANC's coalition's privatisation programme. Strikers claimed huge backing for the protest but business chiefs said support had proved limited. – **Reuters** –

### Fri 4

An investigation by custom officers throughout Europe has shown that the distribution of the medicines needed by those with HIV has been tampered with. As is well known GlaxoSmithKline, the British company, one of a number of drug companies who earlier this year agreed to supply anti retroviral drugs at a reduced price, has had problems ensuring that the product reached the customer at the agreed price.

The investigation uncovered the paper work that showed that the shipments of Combivir, and other drugs of a similar nature were not reaching their intended source; clinics in the Ivory Coast and Senegal. In reality what had occurred to the shipment of 3m doses, worth \$18m / £12m, is that profiteers had hijacked it.

Namibia may expropriate white – owned farms for redistribution to landless black people if farmers continue to resist reform, the foreign minister said yesterday. Owners would be compensated if the step were taken.

He said the government was frustrated by the pace of transfers under the willing seller, willing buyer policy. – **Reuters** –

## **Tues 8**

Still seething, at being governed by a black majority government, the small number of white racists still endemic in South Africa have thought the time was right to alter matters.

Active in the North West province, in the rural areas around Pretoria, the right wing Boeremag group had decided that the time was right to fulfill the 1920's prediction of a Boer visionary S van Rensburg. His dream was that seven days after the death of a black president a war would break out which would be won as the black were in a weakened state because of disease; Aids. In the modern day scenario the Western Cape would be given to Coloureds and people of mixed race if they cooperated with the expulsion of blacks and Indians from the country. Those being expelled would be encouraged to go by the provision of food for their travels. To prevent them from staying acts of intimidation against them would be perpetrated if they offered resistance.

The trigger for this civil war would be the springing from jail of apartheid era killers, destruction of dams, the taking of military bases and taking control of the states computer records. The plan detailed as Document 12 in court records shows that to carry out this operation there would be a force of only 3,772 combatants.

The hopes of the Boeremag were ended on 4/10 when an abandoned vehicle was searched, and weapons were found. The police later arrested the registered owner of the van; L Pretorius aged 56. Among the 12 other people they are searching for is his son John, and T Vorster and H van Rooen. The trial is expected to take place in 2/03.

Security guards opened fire on striking South African goldminers yesterday, killing two and injuring 14. "We opened a murder [investigation,]" a police spokesman said. Two guards were arrested.

They allegedly fired at miners trying to get into a prohibited of a mine nine miles from Johannesburg. – *Reuters* –

## **Wed 9**

The British security company, Group 4, under the name Falac, is operating the country's only private prison. The company charges the government \$10 a day to oversee the running of Mangaung prison.

## **Fri 11**

Long sceptical of the effectiveness of drugs to fight HIV infection the authorities in Pretoria have had a change of heart. After a cabinet meeting, on 9/10, the government has agreed to find ways that those that need anti retroviral drugs; about 4.7m of the population can receive them at the tax payers expense.

As well as funding the provision of retroviral medicines the authorities would ensure that health care workers had the appropriate training when they came into contact with Aids sufferers.

### **Tues 15**

Follow the evidential trail that leads to the conviction of one of an increasing number of rapes (qv 27/7) of babies through Correspondent: Aids, A South African Horror Story, BBC2 23 20 – 00 05, see SA Tape 59.

### **Wed 16**

The end of apartheid brought euphoria to South Africa a creative slump. Now actors and writers are rediscovering their voices. With the plethora of new writers and plays to hit the British shores the realities of life in the new style South Africa can be shown.

On the theatrical circuit, at this time, are The Beggar's Opera and Yimimangaliso : The Mysteries at Wilton's Music Hall, London. In Manchester, The Dead Wait and On My Birthday are at the Royal Exchange Theatre Studio. In Belfast performing, at the Stranmillis Theatre is SeZaR.

### **Mon 21**

As the head of a government that, until recently did not acknowledge that the cause of the HIV infection was a virus, the president has, by his actions, now shown to the public at large of his belief in the use of anti retroviral drugs to treat people with the HIV/Aids virus.

This public demonstration of his new found faith in drug therapy was made during a visit to a clinic in Johannesburg.

Port Elizabeth is to be, if the money can be found, for a colossus that will honour the life and efforts of former president Nelson Mandela. Following five years of discussions by the civic authority funds of £125, 000 have been released for a feasibility study. A favourable report; due in 3/03, will see plans for construction laid down. It is envisaged that the 65 meters high edifice, which will rival the 46. 5m Statue of Liberty would be completed in 2006.

The likeness of the former leader of the ANC would stand on a plinth 45m tall. This space would be used as a 'museum of freedom,' which would also celebrate the national liberation struggle. The cost of monument, paid for by public/private finance is expected to be £18. 5m. The 5, 000 tourists that would visit daily would recover much of the costs.

A difficult Age, one 18 year old tells her story; Born in Cape Town I am preparing to study psychology after her school exams or matriculation, this year. My native tongue is Xhosa I also am fluent in English.

I'll be the first person in the family too ever do to university. It's a big pressure. I'll have to get a job to finance it, and a bursary.

I want to live in Cape Town because of the nature. It's the place to be if you want to relax. I've been to visit my relatives in the Eastern Cape, where my family comes from, but I don't really want to go back there. It's so different from the city. There's no electricity or water, you have to go to the river and carry the water in heavy buckets every day, and I don't like the cleaning and the housework.

The older generation is old fashioned. Lots of them don't want to change. But one of the things I look forward to most is a traditional Xhosa wedding. But not with a Xhosa man; they're too stubborn. I like simplicity and honesty in men. I don't like sexist men.

I like going out but prefer having time to myself and I write poetry about love and things. I'm not worried about Aids and rape. I don't go out that much so I tend to think that it's not going to happen to me. If it does worry me, it's an afterthought. The poverty I see does worry me as you find people with degrees ending up in the townships, and if things don't go right, one day maybe I'll end up in a shack there. Racial tension troubles me, I think South Africa is getting there, but you go to some places and it's still visible. Under apartheid you would say that it was difficult for black people to better themselves, and today there are still problems. I'm hoping that by the time I've finished university these problems will have been cleared up.

I'm thinking of moving away from the Catholic church to a reborn Christian religion. It's more vibey, laid back and relaxed ... the music. You can actually feel free.

I like eating pizza and pasta and I wear jeans mostly. I'd like to make my own clothes, African – style, but I haven't got enough money. My favourite musicians are Lauryn Hill, Erykah Badu, hip hop and African jazz. I love Bruce Willis. He's got a very sly smile. I love the way he carries himself.

For me, Nelson Mandela, he's not exactly the greatest person. I've got no connection with him. I know he brought freedom to South Africa but I can't relate to him. I don't feel anything when I see him on TV. I relate to Erykah Badu through her music ... She sings about love, life and herself.

My mother is the best person in South Africa. She's endured so much, she never holds grudges, she's very forgiving. – **Lucy Ntshuntshe, G2, page 4/5** –

## **Sat 26**

A reassessment, 110 meters is to be the height of the statue of Nelson Mandela (qv 21/10) to be erected above the harbour in Port Elizabeth in South Africa. – **The Editor, page 6** –

## **Mon 28**

Debunking the myth that the 1995 victory of the Springbok in the Rugby World Cup, where the newly elected president Mandela donned the national jersey, showed a turning away from the apartheid notion of the white man's superiority on the sporting field comes in a recently published book.

The allegations, that the multi racial team was made up of members who still showed prejudice to non white colleagues came in the book A Biography of Courage by M Keohene, who is the national teams communications manager. The book details the life and experiences of the country's best known black player Chester Williams.

Singled out as user of the most offensive use of the word kaffir was team mate and winger, the same position that Williams played, James Small who used the demeaning word at every opportunity even on following overseas tours.

Such is the lack of once the white dominated sport, and also male hockey, showing racial integration that the government has proposed; in 2/02 that there should be a quota system for the make up of national teams.

## **Tues 29**

Lesotho's chief justice, M Lehohla, has, after finding the Canadian construction company Acres International guilty, deemed that they should pay a fine of £1.6m for acts of bribery involved in securing contracts to build a series of dams in the kingdom.

They were convicted, on 19/9, of paying an agent £278, 000 of which 60% was paid to the former chief executive of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, M Sole (qv), who himself was recently jailed.

## **Wed 30**

A review of SeZaR, a product of South African Theatre (qv 16/10), and an adaptation of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. Performed back in the land of the Bard the play gives us westerners "still have the answers, and the power".

## **Thurs 31**

In an almost repetition of a 1999 road traffic accident four Britains were among the dead after a tourist coach, owned by the same company involved in the 1999 incident, slid off the road and tumbled down a mountain side.

There were 21 people on the coach as it traveled from a game park in KwaZulu – Natal to Johannesburg. The Springbok Atlas tours bus careered off the road near the town of Piet Retief.



In what may be linked to the recent onset of the trial of members of Boerforce group, a white supremacist group (qv 8/10) a number of bombs have exploded in the Johannesburg 'suburb' of Soweto. All told ten devices, described by the police as home made, were detonated over the last 36 hours. As a result only one death has been reported, that of a 42 year old women killed after she was hit by debris following an explosion at a disused railway station in the township.

## NOVEMBER

### Fri 1

“I want to tell you about all that has gone well in the new South Africa over the past decade, but I can’t shake of this haunting figure of 35, 000\*. I want to tell you about the ordinary heroes who cracked open the shackles of four decades of apartheid to lay a bed rock for a greater society; of the black people who set aside a lifetime of abuse of pain to invest in a new country alongside their oppressors; of the poor Afrikaners who found the courage to vote to end white rule; of the millions of South African parents, far outnumbering the purveyors of crime and violence, who struggled to shape a future for their children free from the old dictum that they are only good for the factories or the field”. – Chris Mc Greal, newspaper correspondent, Johannesburg 1990 – 2002

\*denotes the number of children estimated to have born HIV infected in 2001

### Wed 13

In a move that has alarmed conservationists three southern Africa countries have overturned a long standing agreement on the sale of ivory. Meeting in Santiago, Chile, the delegates to the UN sponsored gathering of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species; the international trade in endangered species have said the sale of stockpiled ivory can be sold on the open market, once monitoring measures have been put in place.

By reasonable argument the three countries, South Africa, Botswana and Namibia, will be able to sell on the open market ivory that has been stockpiled after the elephant has died of natural causes or as the result of poaching, over the last 13 years of the Cites ban on the sale of this highly sought after product.

Sales are expected to begin in 18 months, once scientific monitoring of the African and Indian elephant herds has been completed. There will also have to be a crackdown on the illegal trade in ivory products to countries like China.

### Fri 22

**Obituary, Frances Ames 20. 4 1920 – 11. 11. 2002** active throughout the years of apartheid this was the woman who exposed the measure of the cover up, by the South African medical authorities, surrounding the death of Steve Biko (qv).

Sufficient to say that after forcing the SA Medical and Dental Council to hold an inquiry into the activities of Dr 's Tucker and Lang – which exonerated them of any mistreatment in ordering the sick man on a 700 mile journey – she went further and won a supreme

court ruling that there must be a full inquiry into the facts. This time the findings, in 1985, the result was Dr Tucker was struck off and Dr Lang reprimanded.

Honours came her way; 199 Star of Africa awarded by president Mandela. In 2001 the University of Cape Town bestowed a MD honoris causa “on the grounds of her excellence as an inspired clinician, teacher and moral exemplar and citizen of distinction.” The struggle to bring up children and run a career without a husband, he died suddenly in 1967, but with the aid of a loyal Xhosa domestic servant was told in the book *Mothering in an Apartheid Society* (2002).

## **Tues 26**

Still defending the cultural identity of the Afrikaner Radio Pretoria; ordered to close in 1994 (qv) is still on air. Announcers even find it hard to refer to Namibia or Zimbabwe. They still use South West Africa and Rhodesia when talking about their neighbours, even after eight years multi racial government.

Below the surface the far right, once the home of the AWB supporting farmer or plain racist is a new breed of malcontents according to a new report by the academics at the Pretoria based Institute of Security Studies is a new, more radical group. The so named Group 36 is according to co-author H Boshoff made up of members of the military, doctors, academics and engineers. It would not be surprising if members of this group were the real powers behind the coup plot that will be exposed in the 2003 treason trial (qv 8/10).

The national executive of the ANC has taken control of the government in the Eastern Cape, after disputed local election results. The move comes after allegations of attempting to turn the province into a “political disaster area” according to the president. Several members of the region's government have been purged. For a long period there have been allegations of misconduct in the region. Claims of self-promotion of ideals and looking after family and friends – corruption – have also been leveled.

Through various media outlets, print and broadcast, it has emerged that a verdict has been reached at an inquest into a coach crash in Lyberg South Africa in 1999. Convened in Epping, Essex the coroner has ruled that the crash – which killed 27 British tourists, including a husband and wife known to the author of this diary – was the result of the coaches driver mistaking the accelerator for the brake as the coach careered down a steep incline.

## **Wed 27**

The ‘class action’ started by lawyers on behalf of the Apartheid era (qv 18/6) will not be supported by the Pretoria regime. According to reports in the Business Day newspaper the justice minister said in interview that to do so would harm the countries attempts to encourage overseas investment, from these same named companies, if the regime were to back these claims.

There was a similar response to a second attempt, by the Khulumani support group and Jubilee South Africa, to seek compensation for the victims of state sanctioned torture from a raft of international companies because they had supplied equipment to the previous regime against UN sanctions. Again the federal court in Brooklyn USA was the choice of venue. Lawyers were acting 33, 000 members and 85 individuals.

Aids; Five million adults and children with HIV, the majority being women. Encouraging results, through education, of the dangers of unprotected sex has seen the infection rate of pregnant women, under 20, drop from 21% in 1998 to 15.4% in 2001. However, infection levels are rising among the over 20's.

In Swaziland HIV rates are higher than thought possible. Estimated at 33.4% infected, these rates are the highest in the world, after Botswana at 38.8%.

### **Sat 30**

As evidence of the still active white supremacist Boeremag (qv 8/10) security police raided 94 premises throughout the country. As a result several people were arrested. One such detained person was G D Lewis aged 63, the wife of C D Lewis who is serving a jail sentence for the 1999 killing of Chris Hani (qv 8/4) the cabinet minister and member of the South African Communist Party.

In recent months the Boeremag have been responsible for the bombing of a police station in Cape Town, a country airport and a bridge over the River Untamvuna. Also attacked were a railway station in Soweto, which killed women, and a bomb in a Buddhist shrine in Pretoria.

No sooner had Angola's ceasefire begun earlier this year than a humanitarian crisis involving millions unfolded. The legacy of war remains but outside agencies is taking up the cause to end the famine.

In Mavinga, a town and feeding centre of weaponless Unita soldiers, as of 6/02 sources said that 15 people every day were dying of lack of food. Once the UN's World Food Programme began flying in food, from 1,000km crisis has been averted. As of this present time 2m; 15% of the population are dependent on food aid. As a sign of the severity of the crisis in the last 6 months of the war Chipindo, high on the plateau in the south of the country is 2,000 graves of the victims of famine. The UN is appealing for \$380m from the international community to cover its work in 2003.

Shuttleworth M (qv 6/1), the interview.

## **DECEMBER 2002**

### **Fri 6**

Nelson Mandela published South Africa's first systematic study of Aids yesterday, showing that the disease is afflicting more children than previously thought. The study found that one in five of those aged between two and 14 were infected.

In what was seen as a message to his successor, Thabo Mbeki, Mr Mandela on a platform bearing the words 'Good leaders lead,' said "Without children there can be no nation." – GDN page 18, C 6 –

### **Sat 7**

One of the navy's controversial procurements, foreign built vessels, has been named such that the former colonial power might take offence. As part of the contract to build four Valour Class corvettes one has been named after the battle of Isandlwana; a defeat for the British army in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

A spokesman for the South African navy indicated that such a name was not intended to glorify the British defeat, rather it was to honour valour of the troops who fought on both sides in the conflict.

As to the role of the corvette, and three similar craft being built in Kiel in northern Germany, it was said that the vessels would be used for fishing patrols, rescue missions and bombardments.

"Former South African president Nelson Mandela is to host a concert featuring some of the world's leading entertainers to raise funds for Africa's millions of Aids victims.

Among the artists to appear are U2 star Bono, Marcy Gray and Shaggy have already agreed to perform at the show on February 2, to be held on Robben Island, a rocky outcrop off the coast of Cape Town where Mandela spent nearly two decades as a prisoner of the apartheid regime." – People, YEP page 4 –

### **Mon 9**

At a signing ceremony, near the Mozambican capital, the presidents of Zimbabwe, South Africa, Mozambique will bring into existence one of the world's largest game reserves. The Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park will cover 35, 000 sq. km land that once was three separate game parks – Kruger , Limpopo and Zimbabwe's Gonarezhou.

The aim of the project, heralded by conservationists and its promoters, is to lure tourists into a region that has had a poor press of late. Within the park there will be enough land

to foster biodiversity and sustain a large number of carnivores and have a mammal population of 100, 000.

### **Tues 10**

For the second time in a few months the former president Nelson Mandela has met the chairman of Treatment Action Concern (qv 29/7). Again he was asked to recommence taking drugs that would control the infections that HIV patients are prone to. Once again Z Achmat refused to do so. It is a stance he will continue to take until all such drugs are available to the poor.

Although a sick man, as chairman of TAC, Mr Achmat is still at the head of an organisation that will unleash a campaign of civil disobedience, from 2/03, if its demand for the free availability of anti retroviral drugs for all are not met.

### **Thurs 12**

An opinion poll, on behalf of the Institute for Democracy in South Africa, Ghana's Centre for Democratic Development and Michigan State University, has shown that many blacks believe that life was better under the Nationalist government than under the present ANC regime.

The poll was carried out by the Afrobarometer group in 9 and 10/02 and questioned 2,400 people, whose names were taken from the 1996 census. Author of the report Professor B Mates indicated that blacks felt as they did because memory only remembers the good things, as you tend to forget the bad.

Other findings; 1:10 people said that their elected representatives were interested in there needs. 1: 3 felt this government were more trust worthy than those of the apartheid era. As to the popularity of the government only 38% of blacks said that it was more trustworthy than previous regimes. This figure was a lower percentage that given by both members of the white and mixed race's that were questioned.

In conclusion the survey showed that this ANC dominated government had no immediate challengers as members of the black population had no other alternative party to vote for as the opposition were in a state of feebleness. Possibly the greatest comfort to the regime is the fact that 54% of those questioned said that this current system of rule was of a positive nature. The 1995 rating of positiveness was only 36%.

### **Fri 13**

Following a vicious robbery, unreported by this author, of a British couple, P Morgan, has been jailed for life by a judge in a South African court. The 19 year old golf caddy ambushed D and J Conway at a hotel in Pilgrims Rest in Mpumalanga province in 10/02.

The caddy in a routine manor confronted the two elderly tourists. Unexpectedly Mr Conway made a grab for a 9mm pistol Morgan was carrying. During a struggle for the weapon several shots were fired and he was hit in the face. His wife aged 60 was fatally wounded with a shot to her stomach.

In addition to the life sentenced the convicted man received he was jailed for an additional 44 years for illegal possession of a weapon and ammunition and the attempted murder of the 55 year old former soldier. Tourist officials welcomed the punishment, as the judge said he would not tolerate criminals treating tourists as “soft targets.”

### **Sat 14**

Backed by Judge E Cameron (qv) who let it be known that he was HIV positive, has endorsed the work of photographer Gideon Mendel who is in the third year of a long term project to highlight the need for the widening of the drugs that are needed to fight the Aids related virus.

Highlighted are the hopes and experiences of T Mashi; a witness at the recent court case that was Mbeki v The Pharmaceutical Association of South Africa (qv). P Mbolekwa aged 24, a volunteer at the Aids Counseling Care and Training Centre in Soweto. Sarah Hlalele from Sharpville who died as a result of HIV infection on 14. 4. 02. N Yako of Khayelisha, denied both Nevirapine or AZT. K Mazomba from Kwatema township who became infected after being raped. Using her personal experience she now is involved with the National Association of People with Aids. L Pento of Nontyi, a self confessed womaniser. Using the self-same tactics, taught to him by M Goniwe (qv) when they were both activists determined to overthrow the National Party, he is involved in educating the young in the dangers of unprotected sex.

From the townships of Khaylisha and Gugulethu come the tales of three women who have passed the virus onto their, as then, unborn children. From the same areas come stories of two men and a woman that are receiving anti retroviral treatment.

### **Mon 16**

On going action by members of the security forces, reported in the Afrikaner language newspaper, has led to the detention of suspected members of the Boeremag movement (qv 8/10). As well as the detained leaders the police have stopped, for the moment, a terror campaign sponsored by the disaffected white racist movement.

As well as the people held, a vehicle, packed with 384kg of explosives and two bags of nuts and bolts were discovered. It is thought that the car bomb was intended to be detonated outside the venue of a Kaizer Chief versus Sundowners football match in Pretoria. This 'nightmare scenario' situation, it is thought by the police to provide a level of racial tension on the eve of the ANC's National Congress in the town of Stellenboch.

Despite this setback the right wing group has pledged to continue its campaign of violence during the Christmas period.

### **Tues 17**

More than 3,000 delegates, of the African National Congress, have gathered in the university town of Stellenbosch; and for so long the home of the National Party to attend their five yearly gathering.

Listening to the opening speech, by President, Mbeki, congress was galvenised by his determination to hold onto power following the 2004 general election. Touching on the situation in the Eastern Cape, where central government has taken control of affairs (qv), the president accused the regime of bad management and the purchasing of control, through buying votes, with the aim of corrupting party procedures. The blame for this situation was laid at the feet of civil servants and trade unions. He called on conference to tighten up its internal accountability of the leadership as a whole.

There was, some would say, a cool reception for Nelson Mandela from his successor as he came onto the stage; a gibe when he addressed him as 'Tata' or Uncle a show of respect or derision depending on the inflection of the voice.

Also on the platform was the health minister, M T Msimang who told the gathering that the cost of providing anti Aids medicines were crippling the budget, the country could not afford the cost. Even a cut in the defence budget, by canceling the controversial submarine order, brought the response that [Bush] "could invade."

### **Wed 18**

With the mediation efforts of Pretoria the warring factions in the Democratic Republic of Congo have agreed a peace deal that will end nine years of conflict in the central African country. If peace holds this will be a second success for South African diplomats, after their 2001 role (qv 3/11) in Burundi.

Under this agreement the present head of government, L Kabila, will head of an interim administration, sharing power with four other rebel group leaders as vice presidents, until fresh elections in 2005. Former rebels will also run a number of key cabinet posts and ministries.

With the sale of two South African casinos, and two properties in London the company London Clubs International will be able to keep their commitment to repay a one hundred million pound loan from the Bank of Nova Scotia by 9/'03.

The South African property, Emerald Safari and Resort Casino could fetch a price of £35m. In London, 50 St James with a value of £55m and a freehold of £20m and the Palm Beach are more than expected to cover the outstanding loan.



## **Fri 20**

Speaking at the ANC's congress in Stellenbosch president Mbeki told a tale that it was hoped that would dispel his image as a technocrat. During exile in London, the then had backed member of the communist party, went on a demonstration outside the US embassy in Grosvenor Square.

During the protest, at the American involvement in Vietnam, a British policeman's fist broke one of the future president's teeth. He told the gathering that the remaining half tooth was not intended to make him more attractive to women, but was gained as a way of life in the then world of political fraternity. The disclosure, which went down well with delegates, came as a result as congress received fraternal greetings from the Vietnamese Communist Party.

U2's Bono has teamed up with former Clash frontman J Strummer to write to write a tribute song to Nelson Mandela to be played at a huge Aids fundraiser. Acts such as Coldplay, Queen and Ms Dynamite are among acts scheduled for the show at Mandela's former South African prison home of Robben Island. – YEP, People column, page 4 –

## **Sat 20**

Despite there being 'no specific threat to British nationals,' the foreign office in London has issued a warning that tourists traveling to the region are at risk of being caught up in terrorist attacks.

There have been a number of incidents, claimed by factions of the disaffected Afrikaner population. Over the last seven months tourism numbers rose by 20% compared to the same time last year.

## **Tues 24**

With the sudden death of Joe Strummer, from a suspected heart attack, U2's lead singer Bono will have to find another collaborator for his tribute song to Nelson Mandela (qv 20/12). This was to have been performed at the Aids Awareness concert that the former president has organised for 2/03.

## **Tues 31**

The proximity of a number of sharks to the sandy beaches of the Western Cape has forced the authorities to forbid people from swimming off shore. The rise in the shark population, so close in, is due to the rise in numbers of fish that survive the conservation measures imposed by the government.