

JANUARY 2008

Sat 5

The ANC president Jacob Zuma is expected to take a fourth wife today. A marriage to N Ntuli aged 33 is to take place at his ancestral home in KwaZulu Natal a family member was reported as saying. Married five times, the recently elected leader, who was divorced from the now foreign affairs minister, in 1988 and another wife in 2000.

As to the other three wives they still live in the named province. As to this impending nuptials his personal assistant, N Luthuli who has been working with Zuma in Johannesburg, could not confirm the report.

Wed 9

The world's real GDP growth is expected to be 3.5% in 2008, with higher growth in developing economies cushioning a poor showing in richer economies.

Figures from the World Bank, and for the United Kingdom HM Treasury, show that the developing South African economy is expected to grow by 5.1%. The economy of the UK, however, will only grow by 2.25%.

Sat 12

With the compliance of the recently convicted G Aglotti (qv 6/12) the nations prosecution authority have said that police commissioner J Selebi is to be charged with accepting bribes in respect to the free flow of narcotics into the country. There will also be a charge for passing intelligence reports, compiled by the British, and interfering with a murder investigation. It is also possible that Selebi will lose his position as head of Interpol.

The announcement of an impending arrest came as Mr Selebi lost a court case in the Pretoria high court, in which he deemed to suggest that any charges against him would tarnish his reputation. The judge chose to disregard the commissioners plea that the whole case was a 'scandalous plot' against him, and by implication, the ANC who are also dealing with the possibility of losing their recently elected leader on corruption charges.

Even as the authorities in Mozambique announce they are better prepared to deal with the effects of flooding (qv 2000) it has been seen that the Zambezi river has once again overflowed its banks. Even so 45, 000 people have had to leave their homes. Still there are thousands of nationals at risk.

Mon 14

Days before the expected court lays papers before, the under investigation, J Selebi (qv 12/1) the police commissioner has taken 'extended leave of absence' from his day job and as head of the international police body Interpol. Speaking in Paris the secretary general of the world wide police agency, R K Noble, praised the South Africans work and noted that the forthcoming charges had "nothing to do with his position as president of Interpol." He then went on to comment that "corruption is one of the most serious offences that any police official can be charged with."

Further details from the Pretoria high court (qv 12/1) show that evidence for his coming indictment - of accepting £90, 000/R1. 2m were made through a front company and named as 'cash crop or cash chief.' Mobile phone evidence will show that over the last 3 years 223 calls were made by Selebi and G Agliotti - will be given by a former girlfriend and Dianne Muller a secretary.

An additional charge of plans to cancel the international arrest warrant of Zimbabwean businessman Billy Rautenbach for a payment of \$30, 000 is also expected.

As the floods in Mozambique (qv 12/1) claim, so far, six lives - four drownings and two who were eaten by crocodiles - have been lost in the central province of Sofala province. So far 34, 000 people have been rescued by the authorities from affected areas. The annual floods came despite the £5m/\$10m spent on flood defence over the last 12 months.

Tues 15

As of the most recent end of market announcement the price of an ounce of gold was \$910. Analysts now predict that in the not too distant future the price of an ounce of gold will breach the \$1, 000/oz ceiling.

The gold market, in 2007, where 974. 2 tonnes were mined an increase of 19% on the 2006 production., used 590.7 tonnes in the manufacture of jewellery, used 240. 7 for investment. The remaining 138 tonnes were used in Exchange traded funds and others.

Wed 16

Police in the north west of the country have detained a 17 year white old youth for the racially inspired murder of four people. The deaths occurred in the black settlement of Skiellik near the town of Swartruggens. The unnamed youth, son of a farmer, was detained after a manhunt - involving dogs and a helicopter - on 14/1.

Obituary, Himie Bernadt, 21.12.09 - 25.12.07, a lawyer by trade born of immigrant parents in Pretoria, was privileged to look after the interests of Nelson Mandela as he was detained on Robben Island.

Suffering as a 'Jew boy' in a school class dominated by Afrikaner children, when eight years old, he lashed out, and was never bothered again. Moving to Cape Town, to live with a more prosperous uncle, he attended the South African College where he qualified as a lawyer in 1931.

Working in the town for a number of trade union organisations, he was always under the eyes of the security forces but was never arrested or worse still banned under the Suppression of Communism Act, although this fate did await his wife - Jean - following Sharpsville (qv) in 1960.

Notable achievements were to force the authorities to hold an inquest into the prison cell death of Looksmart Ngudle, an ANC guerilla fighter in 1963. At this lawyer's insistence, in 1969, there was an inquest into the death of I A Haron, a member of the Pan African Congress who also died while detained.

Post Rivoena trial there was the request, from [now Lord] J Joffe, Nelson Mandelas lawyer to look after his clients affairs. Many was the tales told of the interaction between the leader of

South Africa's leading guerilla movement and his Afrikaner jailers and there show of deference as the soon to be released, from Pollsmoor Prison, leader of the ANC came into a room.

Fri 18

With some disparaging words for the prosecution, by the magistrate, the British tourist Anthony Cooper has been cleared of all charges relating to the death of a fellow holiday maker after a scrubland fire on the slopes of Table Mountain (qv 28/11).

Bringing an end to hearing W van de Merwe said that after hearing much of the police evidence she had identified gaps in the evidence. Her main criticisms were of the forensic, the failure of the police to call a scientific expert to explain how a cigarette but or piece of match could have started the fire, the failure to provide forensic pathologist S Del Raven with the medical history of Mrs Chesworth - the fires only fatality - which would have been an assistance in establishing the cause of her death.

Perhaps the most damning criticism, of the police handelling of the case, was reserved for the evidence provided by two taxi driver witnesses. There evidence was both contradictory in its nature as well as, in the opinion of the magistrate, and there was a question over there powers of observation.

Sat 26

The state owned electricity authority, Eskom, has said that because of the lack of newly built power stations the countries mining industry will have to face closure of some of its mines. The minister responsible for the mining industry, B Sonica, indicated that legislation would be introduced as a "quick hit solution" to the problem.

The main mining groups to be affected would be the Harmony and Gold Fields, one of which manages the Cartonville with its 16, 000 employees. The authorities, in Pretoria have indicated that supply of power will only be at survival level during the estimated six week closure.

FEBRUARY 2008

Sun 17

With so few black role models the position of Andile Ndlovu, who is soon to appear on national television broadcast can only do good for the many thousands of black township dwellers.

Having broken into, at the age of 19, into the world of classical dance - the role of Basillo in the South African Ballet Theatres production of *Don Quixote in 2007* - he will now compete in SABC's Dance, Dance, Dance for a place in America's Washington Ballet or the Dance Theatre Harlem companies.

Born - and now back living in - with single mum - in Ennerdale township after being educated at an predominantly white school in Johannesburg his talents were spotted 4 years ago by M Schoenburg in a somewhat Billy Eliott experience.

Wed 20

In an ongoing operation, that has seen the price of medicines used by those infected with the HIV virus fall, GlaxoSmithkline reduced a WHO approved treatment by 40%. This price reduction for Ziogen, a first and second line treatment, is mostly used in the treatment of children.

An overall view of GSK's price reduction shows that - for the 14 not for profit - medicines chosen 21% was the average fall in price. A company spokesman said that the new prices, for the public sector and those already detailed, would come into effect immediately.

Tues 26

With worries about the number of elephants that now roam the plains and live in the National Parks expressed by the minister in 2006 (qv 24/9) Martin van Schalkwyk has set 1/5 as the starting date for concerned effort to stem the numbers of the elephants that roam the land.

At the same time he was sensitive to the words of those who opposed a mass culling of the elephant, whose numbers are forecast to rise to 34, 000 by the year 2020. At the present time there are 20, 000 animals in the Kruger National Park. This is, environmentalists indicate, 5 000 more that the countries largest game park can tolerate.

Any culling, previous numbers were put as high as 5, 000, would now be much lower. The minister thought that those that died would be lower than 2000. Other methods of limiting numbers would be, the difficult, contraception for the females. There would also be the option of forced relocation or opening the border fences to allow free passage into neighbouring countries.

An implied colour bar was sanctioned by Jacob Zuma at a gathering of journalists on 22/2. With an invite from the Forum of Black Journalists to speak and answer questions it was said that while Indian and Asian scribblers were admitted some of their white counterparts were asked to leave.

MARCH 2008

Sun 2

At an education establishment, in the heartland of the old apartheid regime, a new race row is brewing. At the Afrikaner dominated University of the Free State a prank video has been produced that shows the whites humiliating supposed black students.

Internet images, seen throughout the world, show two university cleaners in a spoof induction ceremony into the Reitz hall so residence. So serious has the issue become that the black student leader Tom Thabane wants the ring leaders - R Malhebe and S Merwe - expelled from the university.

Sun 9

Interviewed inside the ANC's headquarters, in Johannesburg, the movements president Jacob Zuma launches a charm offensive. With his second corruption trial date set for 8/08 he realises that he has to show his compassionate side.

Acknowledging the fact that he must not criticise president Mbeki he never the less has no problem in talking about the number of people who are still classed as 'poor' despite the government's claims to the opposite.

The high court, in London, has ruled that a Channel 4 interview with the convicted British mercenary Simon Mann (qv) can be broadcast. At this time no date for transmission has been given.

The 'stop' injunction was sought by solicitor A Kerman who was acting for Amanda Mann the London based wife of the man now housed in the Black Beach prison in Equatorial Guinea. Leaked details from the interview will give, so sources say, 'sleepless nights to government officials and other notables.' Allegations of tacit government approval for the plot are also made.

Names that came up include Peter Mandelson, EU commissioner, Eli Cali a Lebanese financial worth £100m fortune as well as Mark Thatcher (qv).

Tues 11

To take two suburbs of the capitals of England and South Africa and compare categories of crime for the years 2005/6 it can be said that Hackney and Soweto - which has four times the population of its London rival - it can be shown that

city	murder	gbh	rape	burglaries/car jack*
Hackney	6	256	136	3, 500
Soweto	400	7, 800	1, 726	5, 140*

Wed 12

Days away from a second trial Simon Mann (qv) has shed light who were his 'principals', those behind the failed coup in Equatorial Guinea. Speaking, from inside the Black Beach prison in the west African countries capital Malabo, the former SAS officer portrayed himself as being the "manager not the architect ... not the main man."

As to other 'notables' mentioned - claimed that "Thatcher was part of the team." On the role of Ely Cali the Lebanese tycoon, even though he denied any role in the planning of the coup, was outed as 'Smelly' mentioned in a Mann letter from 2004. There was one piece of good news for the political establishment. Although known to be friends of E Cali former peer Jeffery Archer was not the JH Archer mentioned in these letters from jail. Nor was Peter Mandelson, an EU commissioner known to Mr Mann.

Thurs 13

Endemic, as the crime of Rape appears to be (qv 11/3) in the suburbs of South African cities, there seems no likelihood that numbers will fall in the near future. Researchers, from the Human Rights Commission, who interviewed school pupils found that playground games included games of 'rape me, rape me.' The conclusion being that children are so affected by crime that they emulate what happens out on the street.

There were also cases found of 'corrective rape' where a known lesbian was subject to sexual assault in the belief that the sex act would turn the women away from her natural inclination. A second report, from the T .. Victims Empowerment Programme found that 25% of school children did not believe that forced sexual intercourse did not, in some cases, constitute the crime of rape.

More worrying were the findings, from the HRC, that in a survey of 1, 227 female students who had suffered a sexual attack, 9% of their attackers were their own school teachers.

APRIL 2008

Thurs 10

Despite eighteen years of democratic government the former South African leader, Nelson Mandela, and his then ANC colleagues, remain on the United Nations list of those who are banned from entering the United States. To do so, which has happened many times since 1994, there has to be a waiver granted by the administration in Washington.

In recent days, firstly a Californian Democrat H Berman, who chairs House of Representatives foreign affairs committee introduced legislation to remove the ANC - and therefore by implication Nelson Mandela - from all American data bases associated with limiting access to the USA. This plea was endorsed, within the last 24 hours, by the secretary of state Condoleezza Rice who called these travel restrictions an embarrassment to have such restrictions in place. - GDN page 21 C 5 -

Fri 11

During an anti crime meeting in Cape Town the deputy safety and security minister, Susan Shabangu, told the gathering that from now on the police would not fire warning shots, Rather they would adopt a shoot to kill policy.

The deputy minister told the gathering that if criminals dare to threaten the police or the livelihoods of innocent men, women and children, then they must be killed.

Fri 18

Sitting on the dock in Durban awaiting onward transport to Harare, is a consignment of military hard wear, which at the moment - to the great pleasure of the international community and especially the Zimbabwean people - is not going anywhere. As of this time members of the South African Transport and Allied Workers Union are refusing to unload the cargo.

According to the manifesto, of the Chinese cargo vessel the An Yue Jiang, destined to reach the oppressive Mugabe regime are 77 tonnes of small arms. Broken down to specifics - AK47 assault rifles, 3m rounds of ammunition, mortars and rocket propelled grenades.

Reaction from inside the country from Tony Leon, said that to allow onward transport to its destination could be likened to putting a fuse under a powder keg. A government spokesman, Themba Maseko, head of the information department said that there is no mechanism for Pretoria to act on its own and that the government had to tread carefully given the complexity of the situation in Zimbabwe.

Sat 19

The SS An Yue Jiang (qv 18/4) has left South African waters. It is thought that the vessel is heading for a Mozambiquan port. The hurried departure, with its unwanted cargo, came after legal moves by the South African Litigation Centre, using legislation prohibiting the supply of arms to governments that systematically violates, or oppress human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Wed 23

The plight of the Chinese freighter An Yue Jiang (qv 19/4) continues, in its efforts to deliver weapons to the Mugabe regime. Since the vessel left Durban workers and international pressure has seen it refused facilities in Beira, Maputo and Walvis Bay. It is now thought the vessel is heading to an Angolan port.

Whilst international diplomacy would not allow a weapons embargo, the Chinese and the Russians would veto any move in the UN security council, both American and British diplomats are hoping that a short term moratorium could be secured for the length of the current crisis.

An American women was awarded one of South Africa s highest state honours yesterday for forgiving the men who stoned her daughter to death in the last days of apartheid. Linda Biehl was named to the Order of Companions of OR Tamboye President Mbeki, the presidents office said in a statement.

Biel and her husband Peter, who died in 2002, publicly forgave the killers of their daughter, Amy, 26, a Fulbright scholar who was working with poor communities in the country. She was attacked by a crowd returning from a rally of the militant Pan African Congress.

MAY 2008

Thurs 1

The global distribution of fossil fuel reserves show that the country produces 186, 000 tonnes of Uranium, placing it 4th in the world ranking. In comparison Namibia, in sixth place, produces 110, 000 tonnes.

When coal deposits are calculated - South Africa has 48, 750 tonnes of the world's deposits. Thus placing it 6th in the world production league.

Fri 2

Off the south west coast of Namibia, while working on a preparatory scheme, to mine diamonds from the sea bed, geologists working for Namdeb Mining Corporation - a joint venture with the Windhoek government and De Beers - came across a shipwreck. On board, this unnamed vessel - thought to have been of Spanish or Portuguese origin - of the 14th or 15th century, there was evidence of gold bullion and gold coins. The next move, for the company and the marine geologist, who has been searching for such finds for the last 20 years, is to travel to Europe to investigate further.

As promised South Africa has begun a cull of its resident elephants, from habitats such as the Kruger National Park (qv 26/2). Thus ends a 13 year moratorium which, environmentalists warn, will encourage poachers to kill for their ivory. It is thought that the country has 18, 000 of these animals within its borders. Also within the whole southern African region about half 600, 000 of Africa's exist with 50% the responsibility of the Pretoria government.

Wed 7

As Nelson Mandela nears his 90th year and prepares to come out of retirement - for the second time - plans are at an advanced stage for his second celebration concert in Hyde Park in London in ten weeks time.

Already performers are queuing up to appear on stage . Those named so far include Annie Lennox who was there in 1988 calling for the freedom of the former ANC leader. Other 'notables in attendance will be Bill Clinton, O Winfrey, Will Smith, Robert de Niro. Of those on the current pop music scene the Sugababes . Proceeds from the concert will help finance the great mans charity that provides funds to fight the Aids virus.

Fri 16

Anti foreigner feeling - which is targeting mainly those from across its northern borders - have broken out in a township close to Johannesburg. In an outbreak of violence, which occurred on 11/5 police killed two Zimbabwean national in Alexander township.

This action, by the residents of the black township, are a show of feelings as to the number of those displaced by the regime across the Limpopo river as they themselves are in need of the jobs that these people are taking from the South Africans.

Mon 19

As anti foreigner feeling increases (qv 16/5) so do the killings. Over the last 48 hours at least seven people have been killed and 50 injured as mobs rampaged through the poor suburbs of Johannesburg. Many people took refuge at police stations.

Responding to the growing violence, outbreaks were reported in the townships of Diepsloot, Thokosa and Tembisa, the president has set up a panel to inquire into the cause of this mainly anti Zimbabwean feeling. The leader of the ANC, Jacob Zuma, condemned the violence and said to the country “we cannot be xenophobic country.” How can South Africans nationals be hostile to the people of a nation who were so much of a help during our liberation struggle he asked.

Tues 20

Migrant workers from across the countries borders, more especially Zimbabweans, were subject to continued violence (qv 19/5) as angry South Africans continued there killings of people they accuse of stealing employment chances.

From an initial outbreak in the shanty towns surrounding Johannesburg death and destruction of the homes has spread to other townships in the East Rand area. At least 22 people have now been killed for who they are and at least 50, 000 people have taken refuge in police stations or church buildings.

It has always been known, says author **S Jacobs - Thabo Mbeki's World: The Ideology and Politics of the South African President** - that the current xenophobia has always been present in the country. It has always seen itself as “the rainbow nation”and always said that the “world is one country.”

Although the understood cause of the initial cause of the attacks, is the ability of emigres across its borders, to ‘job steal’ from unemployed South Africans, other forces might be to blame. These include, points it shares with other neighbouring countries, colonialism, apartheid and there [its] ability to hate others. Policies made by the government, to embrace all, forget that many of its nationals - admittedly a small proportion - are right wing and conservative in there outlook.

Research, by the South African Migration, has shown that less than 10% of the population has had contact with people from other countries, 35% had some, 11% hardly any and 43% had ‘no contact’ with immigrants.

Wed 21

Data, from the Office of National Statistics for the year show 2007, show that 8, 150 people born in South Africa applied for British citizenship. By comparison 14, 490 Indian nationals changed there status.

As the violence and deaths continued, at least 25 migrant workers have died, in South Africa in recent days, the provincial parliament in Gautenge province has been debating whether to put the troops back into the townships. Whilst the premier, M Shilowa, was ready to accept the need for such action he was mindful of the last time troops were sent in. During the apartheid years it could be claimed that such a deployment was not effective in stopping the violence. As well as the growing death toll at least 20, 000 people from outside the country are seeking sanctuary with the police or the churches.

Leader Comment, **End of the rainbow**, the end to this growing crisis is only going to happen when those in Pretoria face the fact that “Africa’s richest and fastest growing nation is also it’s most unequal.”

As in most unequal societies the poorest - in this case the Zimbabwean et al refugees from outside its borders - come below that nations own poor and are made to suffer by those who are suffering themselves. To stem this growing social amenities gap the government “must deliver on its social welfare policies.” There also be an acknowledgement from the president that South Africa has a refugee crisis and turn them over to the UN.

“His continued denial of the underlying failure of the state will do no good to either what is taking place in Zimbabwe or what is now happening on his doorstep.”

Thurs 22

Five years in the planning, coming to the theatre stage on Broadway in New York, is the second musical dedicated to the South African struggle. Following on from the 1988 production that told the story of the 1976 Soweto Uprising the new production follows the life and times of Nelson Mandela’s time on Robben Island.

Based on the memoir of Zindzi Mandela - who as a young women can be heard reading a message from her father on a track from the record Sun City, Artists Against Apartheid, [*from authors own collection*] recorded in 1985 - a daughter from his marriage to Winnie M Mandela.

Fri 23

As troops are deployed in the townships some migrant workers have been bussed back to their families in Mozambique in vehicles provided by the authorities in South Africa. Remarks by Maputo’s deputy immigration minister, L Bobby, said that 10, 047 of his countrymen had come home. The minister also said that there was likely to more such evacuations if migrant workers are still being targeted in the future.

As to the troop deployment, there was a heavy presence in the Alexandria township where three hostels were raided by the police where firearms and ammunition were seized. There were 28 arrests Human casualties, after 11 days of violence are put at 42 dead and now 15, 000 ‘other nationals’ are sheltering with the police or the church.

Obituary, Alan Brooks 18. 5. 1940 - 10. 5 08, was deported back to Britain, he held a British passport, in 1966. Lived in Northern Rhodesia [now Zimbabwe], from the age of seven, he began his political life as a member of the South African Communist Party as he led a student doctors life at Cape Town University. where he later taught in the African studies department. He had strong Marxist influence during this time.

From joining the liberal party then onto the white dominated African Resistance Movement [ARM] with its sabotage campaign. The 1964 bombing of Johannesburg railway station, ultimately led to his arrest after ARM’s leader was held by police and named names.

Back in Britain he involved himself with the Anti Apartheid Movement [AAM] and the 1969 campaign to stop the Springbok tour. There was also involvement with Cannon John Collin’s Defence Aid Fund for whom he ran the research department. Late 1970’s saw him working for

Frelimo's schools in Swaziland and Mozambique. Later at the Lusaka headquarters of the ANC in exile where he came - unhappily - in contact with Thabo Mbeki, who he had shared a prison cell with in London. Back in London there was a Glasgow to London march, to mark the 25th year of Nelson Mandela's time in prison, to organise in 1988.

Sat 24

As the anti migrant worker feeling spreads, outbreaks of violence - in which at least 43 people have died - to the townships of Cape Town, Durban and the Free state explanations are offered as to why the violence is occurring from both the Zimbabwean and point of view.

Explaining the preference of his white employer to employ him, rather than a black South African Mr Mhanda says that his boss finds his fellow countrymen lazy "and drink beer. They don't like work. They don't come to work and still expect to get paid."

An alternative view of the Zimbabwean migrant worker comes from Veronica Khoza, a street trader, who accuses them of running away from the struggle 'in the north.' It is felt that they should stay and fight the regime, as the anti apartheid movement did in her own country

Sun 25

With the anti migrant worker feeling spreads across the country - and the death toll rises to about 50 - there were outbreaks in the violence in Khayelitsha township near the city of Cape Town. There are now more than 2, 000 displaced foreigners sheltering in the Central Methodist Church on Prichard Street in Johannesburg. This place of worship is in sight of the crowds that are celebrating Africa Day with a march through the city.

The current troubles are a relic of the apartheid era days and not the much heralded xenophobia explanation. It could be argued that under white rule the black person was only expected to become a 'hewer of water' with no expectation of achieving the education to become anything other than a low paid servile class of employee.

With the current influx of refugees, from across its northern border, in the main better educated and willing to work and having ambition there is no option as far as any white employer is concerned as to which black man an employer would choose.

Those fighting the previous regime, the African National Congress, must take some of the responsibility for this outbreak of 'negrophobia.' Their preferred tactic of not targeting the white population but only economic targets could be seen as leaving a white business class in place. As the ANC gained power it then relied on the existing business infrastructure rather than having to immediately find the black class which was simply not there.

Mon 26

After much delay president Mbeki has made a major speech about the ongoing migrant worker violence that has engulfed the townships in recent times (qv). Speaking in a television broadcast called for an end to these "cold blooded acts of murder, brutal assault and looting." There was also a call to remember the role that other nations played as success came to free South Africa. Following on from this national plea for unity there were very public showings of public appearances of members of the leadership of the ruling party. Jacob Zuma went to Bakerton, east of Johannesburg saying "peace should prevail and we must engage each other on whatever issues

there might be.”

Critics, the leader of the opposition Helen Zille, said that the president had let the country down. The largest selling newspaper, The Sunday Times, called for Mbeki to resign because “he had shown himself not only to be uncaring but utterly incompetent.”

JUNE 2008

Mon 2

from memory The leader of the Movement for Democratic Change in Zimbabwe, Morgan Tsvangari, has criticised the role of Thabo Mbeki who, on behalf of the Southern African Development Community, has taken on the role of its chief mediator when dealing with the Mugabe regime.

The MDC leader says that the South African president is too close to his opposite number across the country's northern borders. *The author realises that there were other reasons for Tsvangari's complaints. However these have been lost as his source has gone.*

Fri 6

The American actor and director Clint Eastwood is to make a film inspired by the work of president Nelson Mandela. Titled **The Human Factor** it will tell the attempts, by the former president, to foster national unity in post-apartheid South Africa

Wed 18

Extradited from Zimbabwe [see **Diary page 380**] Simon Mann, former SAS trooper, now faces further jail time of 32 years if the current trial ends with a conviction for the British national as the prosecution allege.

The building, chosen to host his trial, and six others, the conference centre in Equatorial Guinea's capital Malabo, was surrounded by a heavy security presence. This consisted of armoured cars and snipers on the roofs of close buildings.

As the trial of the principal, a Lebanese and six of the west African countries own people began the judge ordered the shackles removed from Mann's ankle's. This meant that the audience of about 300 'invited' journalists and diplomats were eager left at a loss while the chains were removed. Free to roam the court, in these early stages of his trial, the military man said that he had been well treated since he was freed from Harare's central prison.

Once the trial had begun the Attorney General, J O Obono, read out the relevant charges - crimes against the President, government and the peace and independence of the people. The judge, C Manuge, had already outlined the plotters crimes by reading from a police report. There was also evidence given by E Calli and S Moto (qv). It was said that the payments to be made would be £15m for the services of Mann and £3, 000 each to the 70 mercenaries, many of them who came from Angola.

When Mr Mann spoke he pleaded that he was a "mere instrument." The trial was conducted entirely in Spanish. This meant that the Britain did not understand any of the proceedings as the Zimbabwean interpreter was not called into use.

As of this moment companies in South Africa controls 13.9% of the world's entertainment and media marketing. This is worth \$16.8bn. In comparison the relevant figures for the United Kingdom is \$15.2bn which is 5.8% of what this author presumes is GDP.

Thurs 19

In his second day giving evidence S Mann (qv 18/6) detailed the involvement of the son of a former British prime minister. It was Mark Thatcher who fully 'came onboard' with this plan to overthrow the president of Equatorial Guinea. Also on the planning team were the Spanish and South African governments.

Also coming to light, after his four hours giving evidence, was the fact that Eli Cali (qv) had an 'inside man' in the government who could be reached at any time that the plotters wished. The former Executive Operations (qv) director had previously been asked to assassinate president Obiang.

According to Mann his motive for his involvement in the coup plot was the £15m. Also he had heard, from one of the other 'principals' that the oil money was not getting to the people and "this was not right. As to his past deeds he said "I am sorry for what I did. I am also very happy that we failed, that it didn't work. especially now that I am here and I've met you all.

Sat 21

Giving evidence on the last day of his trial Simon Mann (qv) revealed that J O Obono, the Attorney General in Equatorial Guinea, had offered the convicted mercenary a deal during a visit to his cell in 2005. All he had to do to obtain his immediate release was sign a statement naming the financial backers of the failed coup.

On the advice of his lawyers, in Harare, and London, he refused to name names. Asked by his defence team why he replied "ask them." As the defence lawyer, J P Nove, portrayed his client as "poor victim" a plea was made that any sentence should take into account 'the level of involvement and collaboration with the authorities' of his client.

Members of Leeds Youth Jazz Rock Orchestra, made up of 15 - 18 year olds at Ekhaya Multi Arts Centre in the city, have helped out like minded people in the city of Durban. Having been invited along to a music making session in an adjacent township they became aware of the the need to raise funds for the South African budding musicians.

Once back in their home city, through concerts and charity gigs they have, so far, been able to raise £7, 500 which will go towards the purchase of much needed instruments for the Durban band.

Fri 27

Speaking on 26/6, as he attended a banquet in London in celebration of his 90th birthday and launch the second 46664 concert in Hyde Park, Nelson Mandela spoke about his concerns over the conditions in Zimbabwe. Summing up his thoughts on the rule of Zanu PF under president Mugabe's the southern African icon said that there had been a 'tragic failure of leadership.'

JULY 2008

Thurs 3

Days after his 90th birthday Nelson Mandela has something more to celebrate - the ability to travel to the United States without needing a waiver from the American immigration department in Washington.

The absurdity of this ruling, seeing that this former president of South Africa, has been in place as the Americans classed him, and three other ANC 'notables, as terrorists.

Sat 5

A long running dispute, involving Nelson Mandela, a former legal representative and a London art gallery - which first surfaced in 2002 (qv 31/8) and again in 2005 (qv 1/6) - has once again surfaced.

The contentious issue is the sale of lithographs, of crayoned drawings, by the former president when he visited his island prison. Selling at the Belgravia gallery in London for between £6, 000 and £15, 000.

Sun 6

Since the Zimbabwe president elected himself again, see Z Diary et al, the number of people risking the crossing of the Limpopo river has increased significantly. For those who risk the crocodiles 'if we have to die I might as well die in South Africa.' says one of the 400 who are - at a cost of R40/£2.50 prepared to take the risk.

According to the authorities in Pretoria, in the first five months of 2008 20, 397 Zimbabwean nationals deported. However a more realistic figure say the International Organisation for Migration, would be closer to 17, 000 per month.

Mon 7

An Mbeki inspired solution to the Zimbabwean political crisis, delivered to Harare by the South African President, has been received with an open mind by all concerned. In essence the plan involves would the sitting president remain in state house with no powers other than ceremonial. Morgan Tsvangirwa would then take the role of prime minister. The role of the parliament would then be to work out a new constitution. Only then would new elections be held.

The negotiations, *unreported by this diararist - but held on 5/7* - were not attended by the MDC leader. Of the opposition 'notables' who did attend Arthur Mutambara, the leader of the break away faction (see **Zimbabwe Diary page 358**) who has won 9 seats in parliament and only recently rejoined the main body of the party.

Tues 8

Attending the G8 summit, with observer status, president Mbeki has had his recent actions thoroughly examined by the other leaders of nations as to his dealings with Zimbabwe's political crisis. On the whole they were not impressed. As to his most recent initiative (qv 8/7) they

completely rejected the notion of Mugabe remaining as a titular head of the country.

More to the liking of the international community, represented here, was the imposition of United Nations backed sanctions against the Mugabe regime. The envisaged restrictions, formulated by the United States, would involve the freezing of assets of the president and eleven of his officials and a bar on their travel outside Zimbabwe.

With the official release of this draft resolution expected within 24 hours the South African president indicated that such a move would invite civil war to break out over South Africa's northern border.

Simon Mann (qv) the mercenary convicted in Zimbabwe of plotting to overthrow a west African government has been jailed for a total of 34 years in Equatorial Guinea. A number of co conspirators will serve lesser sentences.

Tues 15

It would seem, to this diarist, that the battle for control of South African Breweries/Muller [SABM] in 2004 (qv 6/5) had been won by the Anheuser Busch brewery. As of this moment in time ABB brewery has been taken over by the brewing conglomerate InBev, makers of Stella Artois and Becks. The cost - £26bn/\$52bn.

Using data from 2006 the new company will be able to produce 65bn pints a year, sales of \$36.4bn - of which 40% will come from the USA. From now on the company will account for 21.5% of the beers produced in the world.

As for beers brewed by SABMiller Snow production stands at 5.3bn pints and Miller Lite 3.7bn pints. World production of beer for the named year production stood at 303bn pints.

Wed 16

At a gathering, in Geneva, of members of Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species [Cites] the government of China has been granted the right to purchase 108 tonnes of elephant ivory as a one off deal.

This controversial ruling, as trade in ivory had been banned in 1989 and only lifted in 1999, could see some of the tusks - from the Kruger Park cull (qv 26/2) on their way to the ivory carvers of China.

Those opposed ranging from the International Fund for Animal Welfare to the World Wildlife Fund, said that this move would do little to stem the continuing the illegal trade in trafficked ivory. There was also concerns that sales of ivory from the forests of Zimbabwe would benefit the present 'illegal' government, rather than the people.

Fri 18

Mozambique, facing the costs in the rise in the oil fuel price, is to develop a bio fuel plant using sugar cane to develop an alternative fuel. Recently Maputo has authorised the planting of 18, 000 hectares/44, 500 acres of sugar cane to produce ethanol.

The project, run by Mozambique Principal Energy. will produce 213m litres of ethanol per year at a cost of £140m/\$218m and will create 2, 650 jobs.

Sat 19

Back home in Qunu, the home of his birth, Nelson Mandela - on his 90th birthday - surrounded by his wife and his eight grandchildren the former president asked that the South African people did more for people who were less fortunate than themselves.

Country wide there were celebrations. Among the events were two runners, who holding the national flag ran around Robben Island. There was also a live television broadcast of a prisoners choir singing at Drakenstein prison.

Cartoon, Is president Mbeki a big enough person to step into Mandela's shoes?

Sun 20

Over is the private celebration, of Nelson Mandela's most recent birthday (qv 19/7, now it has become a state occasion.

In the former presidents home village, in the Eastern Cape, serenaded by an Xhosa choir's rendition of 'He is our hope' current presidents from the region and other ANC notables joined the celebrations.

In total about 500 people, including Mbeki, former Zambian president K Kaunda and struggle George Bizos. Among the speakers, on the lawn of Mandela's village home, was ANC president Jacob Zuma who called the gathering 'a celebration a life and legacy of a father, grandfather, comrade , warrior, soldier, nation builder and statesman'.