

US in talks with ANC, Pretoria

WASHINGTON/ The Los Angeles Times reported this week that the US administration has been negotiating with both the South African government and the African National Congress and is about to announce that President F.W. de Klerk and Nelson Mandela, vice president of the ANC, will meet with President George Bush in June. The negotiations have progressed to the point where specific dates are being finalised, the paper said. The Times also reported that the administration "has been trying to work out a way to offer some small 'reward' to De Klerk for his willingness to release Mandela and open negotiations with the ANC that would not draw Mandela's public opposition and arouse loud protests from anti-apartheid forces in the US." The supposed purpose of the "reward" would be to help De Klerk gain conservative white support. Zeph Grunstein of the ANC's Washington office told the paper that Mandela will make a number of speeches during his visit to the US, which will last several days. "He's been invited to every part of the US and wants an opportunity to thank American supporters," he said.

Swapo gives for Chernobyl

Namibia's ruling party, Swapo, has donated \$2,000 to the Chernobyl relief fund. The money was handed to officials at the Soviet Embassy in Windhoek, the Soviet news agency Tass reported on April 27. "The Namibian people want to help the victims of the Chernobyl disaster," Swapo's executive administrative secretary, Moses Garoeb said at the ceremony.

Offshore oil project 'used as cover for submarine construction'

BONN/ Mossagas, the Mossel Bay off-shore gas project, was used as a cover for the supply of U-boat plans and the intended construction of submarines, the internal records of the West German firms involved reveal, a correspondent reports.

Details from records of the two firms involved, naval yards Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft AG (HDW) in Kiel, and its consultants, Ingenieur-Kontor Luebeck (IKL), have been published in the German magazine *Spiegel*.

They show that the Mossel Bay project was used as cover for the deliveries from Germany, as well as for the actual construction of the German submarines in South Africa.

They also show that the Germans sold the design, construction plans, and expertise, subject to restrictions from both Nato and from a bilateral contract with India.

The evidence indicates that the Germans re-sold all the material and know-how of their contract with India, for the construction of a series of submarines, built with German design and technical assistance in 1982-83, to South Africa.

A parliamentary committee of inquiry is at present trying to unravel the involvement of government officials, including the participation of Chancellor Kohl's own office and that of the former finance minister, Gerhard Stoltenberg, in the deal.

The salient point here is that the federal government, after it had officially been informed of the illegal deal in July 1985, should have acted immediately to stop all cooperation between HDW-IKL and the South Africans.

Furthermore, there are sufficient indications that Chancellor Kohl's office, and especially his nearest coun-

sellor, Horst Teltschik, at least had knowledge of the deal when it was struck during an official visit by the then South African president, PW Botha, to Bonn in 1984. They may even have been involved directly.

But members of the Christian Democrats and Liberals in the Bonn coalition have persistently sabotaged progress in the parliamentary committee's inquiries.

Independently, however, the judiciary is running an increasing number of specific inquiries - up to now, there are 14 cases opened - not least because the deal was associated with tax evasion, fraud, and a number of other unlawful activities.

The latest addition to the list is treason: according to the prosecution in Kiel, HDW and IKL traded, along with the "identical" construction plans of the Indian submarines, details of secret design directives of the German navy and of Nato naval construction to South Africa.

It is claimed that even a new and secret design for torpedo launchers was handed over in 1986, together with complete plans for the construction of the launching tubes.

Spiegel, in its edition of April 30, quotes from records seized at HDW and IKL which show quite clearly how the deal was executed and continued far into 1986.

According to this evidence, West German engineers had participated actively throughout the whole construction period.

The records show that the delegation of HDW's former assistant chief director, Rademann, officially for the construction of an oil drilling platform at Dorbyl Shipbuilders in Durban as part of the Mossel Bay project for oil exploration, was in fact camouflage.

So, too, was the platform business - is was set up "to have a job title for the final execution of IK 97" (the code name for the submarine contract).

HDW even recorded internally on November 18, 1986 its satisfaction at the nomination of then South African economics and technology affairs minister DW Steyn, as "the project chief" for Mossel Bay. According to HDW, this was "a very positive development" as Steyn was known "to couple IK 97 to the Mossel Bay project".

Actual construction of the German-South African subs then proceeded not at Dorbyl in Durban but through Liebenberg & Stander Maritime (LSM) in Cape Town.

According to the records quoted by *Spiegel*, LSM was the real contractual partner of HDW "to build (the submarine model) with assistance by IKL".

"First deliveries have been executed," HDW noted on November 7, 1985, "and more are waiting to be collected".

An internal record at HDW dated June 12, 1986 indicates that LSM was "to process all construction plans for the shipyard", to "elaborate construction instructions", and to "execute eventual changes in the design".

Construction engineer Karl Stuelpner, formerly of IKL, was the main correspondent inside LSM.

Rademann was active as an engineer on the construction in South Africa, and in addition to his liaison with South African officials also served as courier for top secret material from

Germany. On a political level, the scandal now seems to be in the open, as a number of officials, and MPs in the governing coalition, must have long known about details like those quoted by *Spiegel*.

The internal records of HDW and IKL were seized some time ago, and months of bickering within judicial bodies and, most important, between them and the federal finance minister (in charge of the regional internal revenue service which seized them in the first instance) has delayed access to the material.

* The Oslo based World Campaign against Military and Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa has appealed to Germany's foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, to revise his earlier decision that the submarine deal did not do "severe damage to the external relations of the Federal Republic", thereby denying the state prosecutor one of the legal grounds upon which to investigate the case.

The campaign also this week issued a statement saying that the provision of confidential Nato documents to South Africa is in breach of written assurances provided earlier to it by Nato, and that this matter should be being taken up immediately with Nato's secretary-general, Manfred Wornat, and with members of the alliance.

The Bonn government has been urged to "require the companies concerned with the sale of the blueprints to withdraw their staff from South Africa."

The state prosecutor has been authorised to investigate the case, but the investigation will not cover the breach of the arms embargo as such.