

A geerei Pith devised by the Department of Foreign Ailairs to build a harbour in Turkey to get around coal exporting sanctions was dropped afttr the outbreak of the Gulf War. The schem was apparently to have been financed bl the private sector, but under control of ihe departmentis planning divi-sion. then htaded by the present ambassador to France, .Vlarc Burger.

The FM lirst reported the existence of the plan after mWS that the SA Police had re-quested R250 000 of slush funds from Foreign Affairs to sponsor two Inkatha ral-lies (Curfew Affairs July 26).

About thrte years ago, SA coal exports to Belgium came under severe pressure. This ilted in lhe release of Belgian citizen ielena Pastoars, who had been convicted under SA Stcurity laws. Her release was negotiated between Foreign Minister Pik Botha and his Belgian counterparts Leo Tin-demans f When coal exporting contracts were up for renewal.

The FM has learnt that Tindemans was under pressure from socialists in the Belgian parliament. They pressed for Pastoorsi re-lease after COsaccused Klaas de Jonge (who was holed up in the Dutch embassy for months) had been given permission to leave SA. De Jongels departure coincided with the release of the SA Defence Forceis Major Wynand du Toit from an Angolan jail and French priest Pierre Albertini from Ciskei. Botha this Week refused to comment on the Pastoors issue. ul cannot deny or confirm it. Various factors are considered when a person in Pastoorsi position is released. Some of these factors are confidential and I cannot iment on them."

ut the Foreign Minister did offer an explanation lo the FM why the Turkish har-bour scheme did not get off the ground.

"The desperate need which existed a few years ago to obtain secure, long-term coal contracts was no longer essential to the coal industry. The Gulf War had also had a major impact . l ."

Botha continued: uThe private sector was also concerned about the fact that in matters of this nature there never can be a guarantee. Should the private sector, however. be inter-ested (in continuing with such a scheme) I believe that the Turkish government might be interested in discussing the matter.n Botha and Coal industry representatives met for the first time at Newlands House in Cape Town (Bothais official residence), probably at the' beginning of 1989. A scheme was mooted to b uild a harbour on the Turk-ish coastline near the Canakkale cement fac-tory on the approaches to the Dardanelles. The FM has also learnt that Botha paid a secret visit to Tterey at that time _ but he M

FlNANClAL MAIL - AUGUST - 16 - 1991 - 35 would not confirm this.

According to documents and maps in the possession of the F M, it appears that plans for the construction of a coal terminal were looked at as early as January 1988. Johan-nesburg financial consultant Ian Forbes tells

the FM that he was involved with the project
_ doing feasibility studies _ at that time.
A Christiani & Nielsen report. which
deals with proposals for the iiCanakkale
Cement Marine Terminal for coal and iron
ore," is dated February 10 1988. According
to the report, the site was first visited on
January 19 and 20 1988 in order to assess the
technical feasibility of the proposals.

At that stage, Forbes and his partner,

I Canakkale Cement Works

Proposed Turkish

harbour project

Storage area /

Existing

Black Sea

V , Istanbul

Canakkale

TURKEY New jetty

Source: CHRISTIANI 5 ME LSEN

.Iurgen Weiss of Austral Trade Internation-
al, had been in contact with a former
Finance Department official in Zurich,
Chris van der Walt, and his associate. Gert
Peter. Van der Walt died a couple of months
ago.

Van der Walt put Forbes and Weiss in
touch with John Branscombe, a retired busi-
nessman who had offices in Paris and Ger-
many, and operated a bank account out of
Geneva. Contact was also made with a CO-
lonel Varda, an undercover Turkish military
intelligence officer.

Through a top Turkish civil servant, Oz
Turkman, Forbes worked with Yussuf Ozal,
a brother of the then Turkish PM, Turgut
Ozal (now Turkish president). Forbes told
the FM that he had been doing the feasibility
studies with the Turkish State Planning of-
fices through Yussuf Ozal m who had ap-
parently also been involved with arms ex-
ports from SA to Turkey.

According to the FMS sources, the owner-
ship of the plant would have remained with
the shareholders and financiers until their
investment had been covered by the opera-
tion. Thereafter the Turkish Electoral Au-
CURREIT AFFAIRS

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harbour that was beached

thority would have taken ownership of the
coal power station # a system known as
BOT (build, operate and transfer); The
sources say that SA's private sector share
would have been very small.

"Our attempt was primarily to obtain
reasonably large long-term coal exporting
contracts. Our task was to investigate the
possibilities and then to involve the private
sector. We advised. made contact and de-
signed the planstw one source told the FM.
According to the Christiani & Nielsen
plans, another proposal envisaged the con-
struction of a second jetty with ship loaders
and unloaders.

The budget costs for the second proposal
were estimated at \$25m, which excluded
handling equipment. The report stated that
these are llballapark figures and arrived at in
a limited time span." Forbes reckons the
final project would have cost \$110m (about

R525m) including the handling equipment.
Major coal exporters this week confirmed that they were present at the Newlands House talks. Amcoal chairman David Rankin says he attended the meeting but uAmcoal was not in favour of the projectfi Rand Minesl Allen Sealey echoes the sentiment. ttWe looked at the project as a coal industry and a committee was put together to investigate what likely size port would be needed. Having looked at the project as a whole we felt it was not economically viable. uWe could notjustiliy it and I think it was Genminls Brian Gilbertson who on behalf of us all signed a letter in which we __ in a friendly way i informed the department of our reservations."
Sealey says he seriously doubts that Rand Mines would in future be interested in such a scheme. ttBut I cannot talk for the industry We would not consider it unless something unforeseen happens. The Turkish market on its own did not justify the port they had envisaged? Rankin says Amcoal would not consider entering into such a scheme in future. Forbes, who says he did feasibility studies, claims that he received no payment. itThe question then is, who got the boodleT' The FM's Foreign Affairs source says that in the end no money was spent, apart from a small amount for some of the feasibility studies of their own. Eddie Bolhu
UMKHONTO WE SIZWE
Ungrusped nettle
The MIC is again facing the problem of divided loyalties.
Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK). the ANC's