

MILITARY ASPECTS

SA Regime's Warmongering

Foreign Minister Pik Botha yesterday bluntly warned neighbouring states that South Africa would continue to 'strike back' across their borders if they harboured guerrillas. Speaking in the Foreign Affairs debate, he warned: 'If they continue to harbour terrorists there can be no hope of peace in Southern Africa. We cannot afford to sit back.' He was backed up in this stand by the NRP's foreign spokesman, Mr Brian Page, who said: 'If any of our neighbours harbour enemies of this state, who are committed to overthrow the legitimate regime, then they must accept the consequences which will include pre-emptive strikes, hot pursuit and the rest. This is unavoidable and in our opinion does not constitute destabilisation'.

Rand Daily Mail 11.5.83

Armcor's Fight for Outside Technology

Armcor would 'fight dirty' if necessary for outside technology to help design weapons for South Africa's protection, said Mr Fred Bell, executive general manager. 'We are not involved in Friday afternoon wargames which we can pack up for the weekend—it is the real thing we are involved in', he told reporters and guests at Armcor's Vehicle Test Centre at Elandsfontein near Pretoria. The wraps came off the centre for the first time yesterday though it has been in operation since 1978. The arms embargo against South Africa was very real and the people who monitored it very efficient, said Mr Bell.

Though the centre cost more than R10-m the consensus of senior officials present was that this amount had already been saved by its manufacture of better military vehicles for the Defence Force. SA's main armour, the Olifant tank, which was a revamped and much modified Centurion MK7, was good enough and could be updated until the 1990s. After that Armcor would have to provide an indigenous replacement. The Ratel, which has been launched with some success on the international market, is the only combat-proven armoured personnel carrier in the world today. Armcor experts are looking at a new generation of vehicle in this field with improved protection, firepower and mobility. Anti-landmine vehicles were designed and built to withstand a certain number of mines, and others could cope with different combinations of mines. These vehicles were improved to accommodate the evolution of minelaying techniques.

The Star 13.5.83

Navy Chief on Visit to Chile—Fascist Collaborators

The Chief of the South African Navy, Vice Admiral Dries Putter, is on an official nine-day visit to Chile to conduct 'discussions of mutual interest'. Admiral Putter arrived as the guest of the Chilean Navy Chief, Admiral Marino Castro, and will also meet the Minister of Defence.

The Star 16.5.83

Immigrants Called to 'Defend the Country'

The Chief of the SADF, General Constand Viljoen,