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BUSINESS DAY, Johannesburg, 1 July 1991

# 'Little to gain' from nuclear pact

PRETORIA — SA's signing of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) would not dramatically effect its uranium sales, Nuclear Fuels Corp of SA (Nufcor) CE John van Riel Lowe said at the weekend.

He said in an interview although SA had not been a signatory, it had always complied with the uranium sales requirements laid down in the treaty and its protocols.

"Countries that wanted to do business with us have done so. We have not been materially inhibited in our operations."

However, the signing of the treaty would greatly improve SA's image in the nuclear field which would be an important factor in sales volumes.

When sanctions were lifted SA would have access to the US and Japanese markets which together historically accounted for about two-thirds of SA's uranium exports.

However, even if demand for SA uranium did increase because of the signing of the treaty, the gain would be small as the world market was

GERALD REILLY

heavily oversupplied and production costs in SA were substantially higher than international prices.

Looking 10 years ahead, he said it was clear the nuclear power sentiment was gaining wide support throughout the world.

"The long-term outlook is good, but not spectacular. Improvement in sales could, however, start in the mid 1990s."

Lowe said it took 10 to 12 years from the time it was decided to establish a nuclear power unit before the plant became operational.

There had been a lull in the planning of new stations worldwide, but a more realistic attitude to nuclear power was emerging as a "good" energy option.

In industrialised countries there was little space left for hydro-generated power and even hydro stations were being labelled as environmental threats.

"In the long term there is no doubt

nuclear power will again come into its own and the demand for uranium will climb," Lowe said.

Sapa-Reuter reports from Cairo that Egypt has welcomed SA's decision to sign the treaty, and expressed the hope that Israel would soon follow suit.

Foreign Minister Amir Moussa said yesterday: "This step strengthens the effectiveness of the treaty which grows stronger as more countries, particularly those with nuclear programmes, join it."

"I hope all states neighbouring Egypt in the African continent and the Middle East will join this treaty especially those that have nuclear facilities which do not undergo inspection ... like Israel," Moussa added.

Israel will neither confirm nor deny it has nuclear weapons.

However, Western military sources have said it has at least 100 nuclear warheads and missiles to deliver them.

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## Kaunda praises FW and hails SA firms

### Progress over hunger-strikers

JONATHAN REES

GOOD progress was made on Friday towards ending the ANC/government deadlock over the classification and release of political prisoners, a Justice Department spokesman said yesterday.

Spokesman Nic Grobler described Friday's meeting between ANC and government representatives as "most constructive" and said another meeting would be held on July 9, after the ANC's national conference.

Meanwhile, five hunger-striking prisoners in Bophuthatswana began eating over the weekend after 29 prisoners were "forcibly removed" to different hospitals, the Human Rights Commission (HRC) said yesterday.

In a statement issued yesterday the HRC said it feared for the prisoners' lives. The move showed a complete disregard for the physical and mental health of the prisoners and appeared to be an attempt to break their morale.

Bophuthatswana prison authorities gave 29 hospitalised prisoners 10 minutes to pack their belongings, ignoring protests from medical staff that they were in no condition to travel, the HRC said.

Fifteen hunger-strikers were flown to a Pretoria military base before being taken to Odh hospital near Garankowa. Five of them began to eat this weekend.

LUSAKA — Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda hailed President FW de Klerk yesterday as the first Afrikaner leader with courage and commitment to the cause of justice.

Kaunda was opening the Zambia International Trade Fair in the northern Copperbelt town of Ndola. He said De Klerk was an important leader, not for his country alone but for the whole continent.

"He is the first Afrikaner leader with the courage and deep commitment to the cause of justice and fair play," said

Kaunda.

Kaunda thanked SA companies for exhibiting for the first time at the fair.

"We want more of you to come and join us. We love your companies," Kaunda told representatives of several SA companies, reports the state-controlled *Zambian Sunday Times*.

It was not immediately clear whether trade deals had been signed between the two countries.

SA is Zambia's biggest trading partner. — Sapa-AP.

THE CITIZEN, Johannesburg, 1 July 1991

## Apartheid not dead letter to leaders

DESPITE the scrapping of apartheid legislation in the last parliamentary session, apartheid is not dead, according to an open letter to world leaders endorsed by 15 South African organisations and individuals.

They include Actstop, the National Land Committee (NLC), the ANC Land Commission, Five Freedoms Forum, the Black Sash, the Reverend

Frank Chikane, General Secretary of the SACC, and Dr Beyers Naude.

The letter, to be sent to US President Bush, UK premier John Major, and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany, among others, says not all apartheid laws have been abolished.

"The scrapping of apartheid legislation and the rooting out of apart-

heid practices is incomplete.

"The legacy of apartheid has in no way been dealt with. The outside trappings have been removed, while apartheid in the main remains intact," the letter says.

"In an attempt to maintain control over the process of change, and to strengthen his own party interests, (President FW) de Klerk is hindering the democratic process. On the one hand, he scraps legislation, which has offended people like us, Sapa."

while on the other, he passes new legislation without consulting the victims of past policies.

"In scrapping some of the most obvious apartheid legislation, the government has put in its place new laws with discriminatory effects. The new pieces of legislation passed during this session of Parliament entrench the inequalities of apartheid's past and do not contribute to the normalisation of relations in South African society."



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