

SOUTH AFRICAN DIGEST

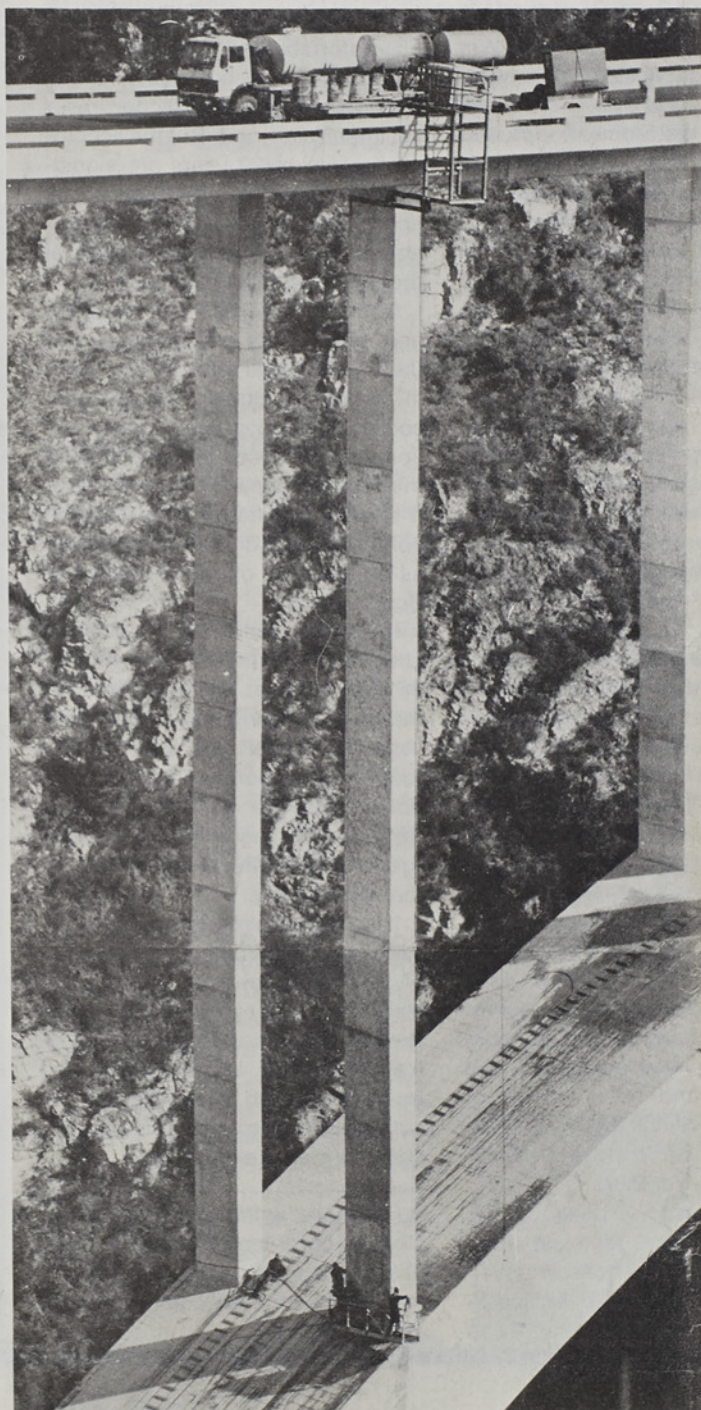
WEEK ENDED JUNE 29, 1984

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Impressive toll bridge

The spectacular Bloukrans Bridge being prepared for the recent official opening of the Garden Route toll road by the Minister of Transport, Mr Hendrik Schoeman. The bridge is 216 metres high and 451 metres long, compared with the Storms River Bridge (120 metres high and 180 metres long) completed in 1954 and the Van Stadens Bridge (127 metres high and 351 metres long) completed in 1970.

Evening Post



Prize for science winners is trip to London

Six pupils from the Cape were winners in the National Science Olympiad — three of them pupils from Kingswood College in Grahamstown.

Richard Brown, son of Dr and Mrs Mike Brown, was placed third overall and first in the Cape. Neil Russell was placed fifth overall. He is the son of Mr and Mrs Alan Russell. First-placed girl in South Africa was Janet Cole, daughter of Mrs R Cole.

They will attend the London International Youth Science Fortnight from July 22 to August 8. Before their London trip, they will attend the Youth Science Week in Johannesburg and then spend a few days as guests of the Chamber of Mines.

PICTURE: Mr Len Victor, Kingwood's head of sciences, gives instructions to the successful trio who will be attending the Science Fortnight in London: They are (from left) Neil Russell, Janet Cole and Richard Brown

Evening Post



Pioneer Mandarin teacher

Mr Pan Ngian Wong, shown above with his wife, Kuei Hsiang, is the first teacher from China to serve in South Africa. He came to Port Elizabeth from China 48 years ago, liked the Friendly City and

stayed. Although capable of teaching anything from maths to music, Mr Wong specialised in teaching Mandarin and his first post was at the Chinese Primary School. The Chinese population of Port Elizabeth today is about 1 400, compared with about 700 in 1936 when Mr Wong came to the city

Weekend Post

SOUTH AFRICAN DIGEST

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IN THIS ISSUE

Aviation	9
Books	8
Education	7
Events	10
International	6
National	3
Press & publicity	10
Southern Africa	3
Trade	16
Welfare	9

FEATURES

- Jo'burg's changing complexion 2
- Premier Botha shows SA's image to world 12
- After Nkomati - implications and opportunities for businessmen 23
- Spain in South Africa 24

COMMENT & OPINION

- Southern Africa: Ingwavuma 17
- National: Burning condemned 20
- Potpourri: A bit of everything 21

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ESSAY

Jo'burg's changing complexion

American writer Don McPhail cautions against singling out South Africa when looking for examples of inhumanity. This article which originally appeared in the US publication, The Rotarian, was published in the June 20 edition of The Star.

Visitors to Johannesburg today are finding that positive things are happening. Always an international city where MacKenzies and Ryans conducted business alongside Van der Merwes and Louws, and where investors from London or Antwerp filled hotels and restaurants, Johannesburg is steadily and clearly changing complexion.

Twenty years ago the "Nie Blankes" ("Non-Whites") signs were displayed everywhere — on buses and outside restrooms, shops and restaurants. Black Africans were usually seen as domestics or unskilled workers. But even then a small number were working in more skilled positions: tending the Big Board at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange or occasionally supervising other Black workers in a petrol station.

Ten years ago the restrictions against dining in many restaurants and shopping in nearly all stores were disappearing. Hotels and "good" restaurants were still essentially White sanctuaries, because big business was still a White man's world.

By 1977 the business community had experienced visible changes. Japanese investors were accommodated as officially "European", not "Coloured" as in the past. Non-White Africans and Asians were highly visible in better coffee shops and moderately-priced restaurants. Department stores were frequented by a variety of colours and classes. And women, not all of them White, were clearly accepted as members of the Johannesburg business community.

Now, the changes in Johannesburg are even more positive. Coffee shops, bars and hotel lobbies of world-class five-star hotels like the Carlton and Landdrost are filled with people of many colours.

A well-dressed Xhosa family, perhaps 30 years removed from tribal existence, sits unselfconsciously among Japanese businessmen, tourists, White and Asian

Johannesburg families and Natal livestock farmers in for the annual yearling sales.

Just five years ago in this same coffee shop only an occasional adventurous or curious Black African would sit uncomfortably as the rude White staff fulfilled their formal obligation of serving him — usually turning him over to an equally uncomfortable Black waiter.

Johannesburg has not suddenly become an oasis of perfection in our yet imperfect world. But the accomplishments of 20 years are significant and positive, and these social achievements are a mirror of the attitudes and social adjustments of the people in Johannesburg.

Soweto still exists just as Watts and other urban ghettos existed in their most brutal form 20 years ago in the United States. The need for social and economic change in Johannesburg continues as it does in nearly every part of the world. But it should be clearly noted that the Johannesburg of today is working as an example of social change in South Africa.

In recent years it has not been fashionable to find positive elements in South Africa, primarily because the dehumanising and hypocritical aspects of apartheid are still the foundation of official government policy. But the people of South Africa are finding their own ways of "getting on" with multiracial life in the 20th century.

It is unwise to focus just on South Africa when searching for examples of "man's inhumanity to man". A New York City policeman could provide a few, as could the citizens of Iran, Nicaragua, Uganda and Cambodia. It is much more important to acknowledge progress. To encourage it — and to expect more.

• *Freelance writer Don McPhail is Chilean-born and US-educated. He has visited South Africa many times and writes primarily about South African affairs.*

Residents must decide

The Government has dissolved the commissions investigating the Ingwavuma and KaNgwane land deals, leaving future negotiations to Swaziland and the two national states.

Earlier, the Minister of Foreign Development, Dr Piet Koornhof, said in Cape Town the chairman of the commissions, Mr Justice Rumpff, had told the Government it was impossible to test the opinions of residents of the areas without intimidation having a notable effect on the outcome of any vote.

Dr Koornhof said the Government would be prepared to give sympathetic consideration to any recommendations made jointly or individually by Swaziland and the two national states.

Earlier, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr R F (Pik) Botha, said the South African Government was not prepared to incorporate Ingwavuma and KaNgwane into Swaziland unless the people affected agreed freely to the incorporation.

South African Press Association, June 20

(Comment appears on page 17)

Tswanas get R67-m

A consortium of four South African banks has concluded a R67,5-million loan agreement with the Government of Bophuthatswana.

The money is to be used for economic housing near the industrial areas of Garankua and Mabopane in the eastern part of Bophuthatswana near Pretoria, as well as in Thabanchu near the border of Lesotho.

The banks involved are the Standard Bank of South Africa, Barclays National Bank, Trust Bank of Africa and the Standard Bank of Bophuthatswana.

The Citizen, June 27

Ulundi talks successful

The top-level talks between the Chief Minister of Lebowa, Dr Cedric Phatudi, and the Chief Minister of KwaZulu, Chief M G Buthelezi, held in Ulundi, were "highly fruitful", Dr Phatudi said.

Unity was the keynote of the talks which were addressed by King Goodwill Zwelithini in the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly.

Dr Phatudi said his meeting with Chief Buthelezi had succeeded in "cementing friendship between the two territories".

"We don't want apartheid and we

want to show the world that, if we stand together, we can bring about its downfall and lead society on the road to a Federal Republic of South Africa."

The Lebowa leader said the fact that he had visited KwaZulu's Legislative Assembly, and the fact that Chief Buthelezi had visited the Lebowa Legislative Assembly last year, showed that unity was strong between the two national states.

"It was also highly encouraging to see the spirit of unity that is shared by all the people of KwaZulu."

The Star, June 14

US-SA loan aids Botswana

A vegetable oil and oil-cake plant to be built in Botswana will make the country independent of supplies from South Africa, and will save the country R2,5-million a year in foreign exchange.

The plant is being financed by the United States and South Africa, and will be built by an international consortium.

Mr Michael Lynott, managing director of Agricultural Enterprises, who are to co-ordinate the building of the factory in Botswana, says he wholeheartedly supports the IDC's loan. The building of the factory fits in with the South African Government's viewpoint that peace in Southern Africa must be based on economic development and self-sufficiency with regard to food.

South Africa's Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) has made a loan of R1,846-million, part of which will be used for the construction of a railway siding and a railway line of 2 km in Botswana.

Die Vaderland, June 20

More land for KwaNdebele

More land — 183 000 hectares — in the Bronkhorstpruit, Cullinan and Groblersdal areas in the Transvaal has been ceded to KwaNdebele.

The Minister for Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof, has announced that the land will be bought over a period of three years.

Die Transvaler, June 20

SA Digest airs the news and expresses the views of the South African scene. They are drawn from a variety of sources and the editor cannot be held responsible for the opinions of newspaper editors, correspondents and a host of other contributors whose work makes up the pages of **SA Digest**.



One of the last camels to be used on police patrols in the Kalahari Desert has arrived in Pretoria. The animal is registered in police records as "Rooikat", and was given to the police museum in Pretoria by Mr J H Burger, of Granaat near Hotazel. Mr Burger bought Rooikat in 1952 after police stopped using camels on patrol in the desert. Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Bothma of the South African Police College, where Rooikat has been accommodated, said the animal's exact age is not known, but it is believed it is about 40 years old. Above: Colonel Bothma welcomes Rooikat to Pretoria

Pretoria News

SA backs direct talks

South Africa favoured direct talks between President Eduardo Dos Santos of Angola and the Unita leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr R F (Pik) Botha, told a meeting in Johannesburg.

He said South Africa believed that the problems of Southern Africa were best solved by talks between local leaders and the way to end the Angolan civil war was for President Dos Santos and Dr Savimbi to negotiate a settlement.

Rand Daily Mail, June 26

NATIONAL

The choice: peace or conflict

The electorate of Potgietersrus and Rosettenville had the choice in the by-elections of voting for the National Party and "growing peace" or for the Conservative Party and "growing conflict", the Minister of Internal Affairs and Transvaal leader of the NP, Mr F W de Klerk, told a NP rally at Warmbaths in the Transvaal.

He said the NP was the only party in the by-elections which had the answer for peace in South Africa. Under Conservative Party rule, peace in South Africa would collapse, the economy would come to a standstill and there would be tension and terror among the minority groups.

He said the Prime Minister, Mr P W

Botha, deserved the respect of every voter in South Africa.

The Citizen, June 26

● **The results of the by-elections, held on Wednesday, will be in next week's issue of South African Digest**

Bomb blast in Durban

A deafening blast rocked Durban's Berea when a bomb blew up a 6 600-volt electrical transformer next to an old-aged home in Musgrave Road. Hundreds of commuters and school children were nearby but there have been no reports of casualties.

Pretoria News, June 21

Committee to investigate urbanisation

Dr Van Zyl Slabbert, leader of the Progressive Federal Party, has appointed a committee of some of the younger and newer members of his caucus to investigate urbanisation in South Africa.

He has asked the committee to make an indepth study of the problems and development needs of areas designated for resettlement; and of patterns of migration from farms, tribal areas and designated resettlement areas to urban centres.

The committee is also asked to study ways for ensuring adequate expanding health services, transport, housing and the means of earning a living for these growing numbers of town and city dwellers.

The team is to be led by Mr Graham McIntosh, MP for Pietermaritzburg North.

The Star, June 22

Moving tribute

Strong men fought back the tears as a veteran airman and boxer paid a moving tribute to three Royal Air Force

(RAF) teammates who died in an air crash in 1938.

In a simple but nostalgic ceremony at the historic Old Cemetery at Voortrekkerhoogte, Group-Captain John Varley (76), a member of the team whose visit to South Africa was marred by the tragedy, laid a wreath on the common grave of Pilot-Officer R Moseby (20), Corporal R Boxshall (22), and Aircraftsman R Pring (20).

Together with the South African crew of their Airspeed Envoy aircraft, the visiting boxers died when their plane crashed in dense bush 32 km north of the Limpopo River.

Group-Captain Varley and the rest of the team flew from Bulawayo to Pietersburg in another Envoy — and only realised after landing that disaster had befallen their colleagues.

Jan van der Merwe, *Pretoria News*, June 7 and *Sunday Times*, June 10

2 385 settlers for SA

South Africa gained 2 385 immigrants in March, while the number of South Africans who left the country to settle elsewhere numbered 761, according to statistics released in Pretoria.

South African Press Association, June 26

CBD restrictions eased

A Bill to enable the State President to exempt certain buildings and properties from the race restrictions of the Group Areas Act has been published.

The Group Areas Amendment Bill was read for the first time in Parliament and will have the effect that central business districts can be opened to all or some race groups.

A product of a Select Committee of Parliament, the Bill is aimed at implementing the recommendations of the Strydom Commission report which suggested that exemptions to the race bar in business districts could be made on the recommendation of the local authority concerned.

The Select Committee ruled instead that any exemptions be made by the State President, allaying opposition fears that some local authorities would be loath to apply for exemptions.

Pretoria News, June 23

War histories editor dies

The former editor-in-chief of the *Union War Histories*, Dr John Augustus Agar-Hamilton, has died in Grahams-town.

He was appointed officer-in-charge of military history records in 1941 with the rank of colonel. At the end of World

War 2, he was appointed editor-in-chief of the *Union War Histories*, a post which he held until 1959.

Apart from a distinguished academic career in South Africa and at Oxford, he was also an ordained minister of the Church of the Province of South Africa and was rector of Christ Church in Grahamstown for many years.

South African Press Association, June 21

Apartheid "key test"

The success of the new constitutional dispensation could depend on the Government's willingness to scrap certain apartheid laws, according to the final report of the President's Council Constitutional Committee tabled in Cape Town.

The committee also suggested an investigation into a regionally determined surcharge on GST to help pay for the new deal at the lower levels of government.

It further recommended that in order to promote consensus, initial debate on measures concerning "general" matters be held secretly in the appropriate standing committee and only later debated publically in the three Chambers of Parliament.

The committee said that in the process of creating a favourable climate for co-operation in respect of common affairs and a spirit of mutual goodwill "it will be necessary to look anew at hurtful and discriminatory measures".

This meant that "substantive and in particular the discriminatory aspects of legislation such as the Group Areas Act, the Population Registration Act, the Immorality Act and the Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act" would have to be re-examined.

Rand Daily Mail, June 19

Change has come

Is South Africa changing? *The Wall Street Journal*, one of the most influential and widely read newspapers in the United States, says maybe.

In a front-page report from a correspondent visiting South Africa for the first time in nine years, the paper said that while South Africa's Blacks had indeed made some advances, they still lacked power; that while the easing of apartheid under the Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, had brought them better jobs and housing, it had not ended banning orders; that a white hobo could vote but a Black doctor could not.

But the contrast in South Africa to a visitor after nine years was "palpable", it said.



A warrior kneels in silent tribute . . . Group-Captain John Varley lays a wreath on the grave of his comrades

Pretoria News

AVIATION

Cut-rate service planned

South African Airways would consider an "alternate marketing strategy" if the new cut-rate charter service from Swaziland to Israel proved a successful venture, an SAA spokesman said in Johannesburg.

He was reacting to a report in a Sunday newspaper that from September South Africans would be able to fly to Europe at less than half the normal fare on flights from Matsapa Airport in Swaziland, to Tel Aviv.

"At present, such flights would not be economical for SAA, because we have enormous overheads. We have a large staff and more than 40 aircraft to maintain.

"However, we will consider an alternate marketing strategy if the cut-price flights prove successful. Swaziland is an independent country, and has the right to choose whoever it wants to do business with," said the spokesman.

A South African company, Cape Gate Holdings, has signed a joint venture agreement with MAOF Airlines, Israel's first independent airline, to fly the international route.

The airline will use Matsapha Airport in Swaziland for the nine-hour flight to Tel Aviv.

Pretoria News, June 11

SA fares competitive

Air travel in South Africa compares favourably with highly competitive countries such as the United States — despite the virtual monopoly held by South African Airways.

A survey of single economy fares for normal scheduled flights shows that kilometre by kilometre, SAA domestic flights are cheaper or compare favourably with those overseas.

This was also the finding of the Margo Commission of Inquiry into Civil Aviation. In its report, the commission said: "Contrary to the frequent complaints in the Press on what are said to be the excessive fares charged on SAA routes, such fares are in general the same and often better than the fares for equivalent distances and services in the US.

"A similar findings result from the comparison with domestic fares for equivalent distances in western Europe and Australia."

For example, the single economy fare from Johannesburg to Bloemfontein (383 km) is R84 — about 22c a kilometre. The fare from Paris to Nantes

(354 km) is R82 or about 23c a kilometre.

Flying inside Britain and West Germany is more expensive. It costs R104 to fly from Frankfurt to Bremen (336 km), which works out at about 30c a kilometre.

Pretoria News, June 15

SA's Spitfire crashes

South Africa's only operational Spitfire was damaged when it stalled seconds before landing, and hit the runway at Margate Airport, Natal South Coast.

The Mark 9 Spitfire hit the runway nose-first, shattering the propeller. The aircraft then spun around, damaging one of its wings.

The plane was taking part in the annual Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) convention along with 380 other planes.

Mr Brian Zeederberg, a representative of the Aero Club of South Africa, said he could not say what repairs would cost.

"The problem is that spares are not available and we have to rely on people who might, for instance, have a propeller in their lounge or garage to get in touch with us," he said.

Rand Daily Mail, June 2

WELFARE



Mr Luigi Chiaberta (right), president of the Ente Italiano Casa Anziani (Italian Old Aged Homes Foundation), and vice-president Mr Elio Marangoni, discuss the finishing touches to the Italian old aged home

The Star

Italian old aged home

The first Italian old age home in the country has been officially opened.

Italians here and in Italy have been working toward it for the past seven years.

The R3,5-million home in Lombardy East, Johannesburg, will accommodate 147 Italian senior citizens. It has single and double rooms, all with bath, kitchen, dining room and sitting room. The home also has a small church.

Jackie Unwin, *The Star*, June 1



Mr Meyer Kahn, group managing director of SAB hands over the keys of the mobile kitchen to the Reverend Tom Mbabane, chairman of Paballoya Batsofo

Mobile kitchen for Soweto

South African Breweries has presented a modern new mobile kitchen unit to "Paballoya Batsofo", a voluntary organisation which distributes hot soup and bread to Soweto's old age pensioners. Sixty pensioners from Soweto who attended the function were the first to be served refreshments from the new unit.

Every two months an estimated 33 000 pensioners queue up at nine different pay-out points throughout Soweto to receive their pension benefits. Many of them come from far afield and often suffer long hours of discomfort under adverse weather conditions.

"Paballoya Batsofo" which means "Serving our Senior Citizens", was



Sixty Soweto pensioners who attended the handing over of the kitchen unit, were the first to be served refreshments from the unit

● Anglo makes top 10

Anglo American Corporation is second in out of 100 of the largest foreign investments in the US.

In a list published by Forbes business magazine Anglo is named after Seagrams of Canada and before Royal Dutch/Shell and BP.

Two SA organisations also appear in a separate table that lists the 200 largest non-American companies in the world.

In 70th position is the Barlow Rand Group and 143rd is SA Transport Services.

South African Press Association, June 31

● 'Perks tax' postponed

The fringe benefits tax, which is proving one of the most difficult Bills to place on the statute books, has been postponed to March 1 next year, the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, said in Parliament.

The decision to exempt a number of basic foodstuffs from general sales tax had placed an additional burden on the staff of Inland Revenue and it had been decided to postpone the introduction of the 'perks tax'.

Pretoria News, June 25

● Report almost ready

The final report of the De Kock Commission investigating the country's monetary system and policy, should be ready in the second half of the year, said the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, in Parliament.

He said the report would be comprehensive, covering almost all South Africa's financial markets, the banking system and dealing in depth with all aspects of monetary policy.

South African Press Association, June 26

● Loan to SA renewed

A five-year loan from the Swiss Bank Corporation would be renewed for a further period of six years when it fell due at the end of the month, the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, said in Cape Town.

In a statement he said the term of the Sfr100-m note issue was the longest for a South African Government issue of its kind in the Swiss market for many years.

"This confirms again that the international investor regards South

Africa as a trustworthy borrower," he added.

Business Day, June 25

● Barclays leads field

Barclays has further entrenched itself as SA's largest banking group.

The official quarterly returns show that at the end of March, Barclays held just under 40 per cent of all hire-purchase business conducted with banks.

It is also the undisputed leader in the cheque deposit (36,5 per cent share), total deposits (18,9 per cent) and overdraft advances (27,8 per cent) areas, and is running a close second to Standard in the leases and savings sectors.

Barclays turned in by far the most impressive performance of all banks in the year end March, being the only group to boost its market share in all but one area of traditional banking business.

Sunday Times, Business Times, June 24

● Survived severe testing

The South African economy and official financial policy had withstood the rigorous test of the drought and the low gold price, the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, said in Parliament.

He said during the debate on the third reading of the Budget's that the official financial policy and had withstood difficult circumstances and "stands unscathed and absolutely vindicated."

He defended the Government's decision to increase general sales tax, saying the selection of items to be exempt in future had been very carefully selected.

Responding to Opposition criticism, he said the country's financial position and administration were "completely under control."

South African Press Association, June 26

● Higher taxes hurt growth

An immense danger exists that the higher taxes required to finance South Africa's constitutional reform programme will seriously inhibit economic growth, said the outgoing president of the Chamber of Mines, Mr Colin Fenton.

Addressing the Chamber's annual meeting in Johannesburg, Mr Fenton said the substantial increase in general

sales tax from July 1 was "only one sign of these changing times."

The reform programme clearly implied higher taxes on the relatively affluent to finance parity in the public services provided for Whites, Coloureds and Indians.

"The main priority of public policy should, therefore, be the financing of these services in a way which does not endanger the kind of productive activity that increases the total wealth of society," Mr Fenton said.

Business Day, June 27

● Rand under siege

The rand crashed to a new low of 0,7418/25 dollars on Monday. There are four factors combining to cause weakness of the rand.

They are:

- The undiminished strength of the dollar;
- The large deficit in the current account of the balance of payments;
- The double-digit inflation rate; and
- The failure of the monetary authorities to contain the high growth rate of the money supply.

Business Day, June 26

● Joint gold hunt

Rand London has confirmed it is to set up a joint venture with Anglo American Corporation to drill gold-bearing areas near Potchefstroom.

Mr Nicholas Hall, managing director of Rand London, confirmed at the weekend that the results from a seismic survey carried out by Anglo over the region had been sufficiently encouraging for a joint venture to be set up.

He said Rand London was discussing the level of equity it would take in the joint venture.

Business Day, June 25

● Bank advances up 43,6 p c

Bank advances, excluding loans on hire purchase and leasing, increased by 43,6 per cent in the year to March, according to BA9, the statutory returns.

The analysis of the BA9 figures, compiled by the Economic Research Division of the Standard Bank Investment Corporation, shows that the advances made by the banking sector, including the commercial banks, the merchant banks and the general banks

● to page 16



The Prime Minister and Mrs Elize Botha with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr R F (Pik) Botha, and his wife, Helena, at the Kruger House in Clarens. The villa is now the property of the South African nation



The first time in 23 years that the prime ministers of South Africa and Britain have held talks. Mr Botha flew from Heathrow Airport, London, by helicopter, to Mrs Margaret Thatcher's country residence, Chequers

PREMIER BOTHA SHOWS SA'S NEW IMAGE TO WORLD

Story: Jeanette McKenna
Pictures: Jim McLagan
Chief Photographer The Argus

The first visit by a South African Prime Minister to eight European countries . . . the first time in 23 years that a South African premier has had talks with his British counterpart . . . these are not ordinary events.

But Pieter Willem Botha, eighth Prime Minister of the Republic of South Africa, is no ordinary man.

He is the only member of Parliament elected when the National Party came to power in 1948 who is still representing the same constituency (George in the Cape Province). He was Deputy Minister of Coloured Affairs and held the portfolios of Housing and Defence. Following in the footsteps of his predecessor, Mr John Vorster, Mr Botha has been a firm advocate of dialogue with African states.

Nkomati Accord

It was under his leadership that the historic Accord of Nkomati, a non-aggression pact with neighbouring Mozambique, was signed in March 1984.



Mr Botha was welcomed to Lisbon by the Portuguese Prime Minister, Dr Mario Soares, with whom he is inspecting a guard of honour. He invited Dr Soares to visit South Africa and the invitation was accepted, although no date has been set

A similar agreement with the Kingdom of Swaziland was announced shortly after.

In the Southern African context these developments were nothing short of spectacular, and they formed an important part of the scenario for Mr Botha's visit to foreign capitals, where he was to inform heads of state of events in the Southern African region and to put into perspective his own internal policies and objectives.

South African Airways Boeing 747 *Matroosberg* took off from Jan Smuts Airport, near Johannesburg, in the early hours of May 29. Aboard were the Prime Minister and Mrs Elize Botha; the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr R F (Pik) Botha and his wife, Helena; the Director-General of Foreign Affairs, Mr Hans van Dalsen, and his wife, Marie; officials of both departments; a security team and a Press contingent consisting of representatives of all newspaper groups, the South African Broadcasting Corporation, a film company which is making a film of the Prime Minister's life and an official journalist.

Converted

The aircraft had been converted to provide suites for the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, while the rear had become a flying conference centre for the Press team. With all the centre seats removed, there was ample room for the airborne briefings that were to become a feature of the tour.

Not long after take-off, the "Prime" and "Pik", as they are affectionately known to the Press, came with their wives to say a personal hello to the media people, setting the informal, friendly tone which characterised their relationship

Below: "Come right in!" is what the President of the Austrian Chamber of Commerce, Mr Rudolf Sallinger, seems to be saying to the Prime Minister



In memory of the fallen. A veteran of the Battle of Delville Wood, Major E Fitz, lays a wreath at the memorial near the village of Longueval in Northern France. Mr Botha also laid a wreath at the War Cemetery in Rome, where several South Africans are buried



Mr Botha and the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr Helmut Kohl





with the media throughout.

A hectic schedule lay ahead of the Premier, who met leaders in Portugal, Switzerland, Germany, England, Austria and Italy. He addressed three major conferences of business leaders — in Switzerland, Germany and Italy.

War Museum

He laid the cornerstone for a new South African Commemorative War Museum at Delville Wood in Northern France. It will honour the memory of the 25 000 South Africans who have lost their lives on foreign soil in two world wars and in the Korean War.

He paid a flying visit to West Berlin to lay a wreath at the wall and to recall the gallantry of the 10 crews of South African Air Force men who, between October 24, 1948, and August, 1949, flew 2 500 sorties and carried 8 333 tons of supplies to the beleaguered city during the Berlin Airlift.

With the entire group accompanying him, Mr Botha visited — appropriately enough on South Africa's national day, May 31 — the villa in Clarens, Switzerland, where the former President of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek, Paul Kruger, died in exile in 1904.

He had an audience with Pope John Paul II, to whom he presented, on behalf

The Botha family is a closely knit unit. Daughter Rozanne was there to meet her father and mother when the aircraft touched down in Cape Town

of the Bible Association of South Africa, a copy of the latest Afrikaans translation of the Bible.

He attended numerous banquets, dinners and receptions, had several working breakfasts, held Press conferences, visited the Forum in Rome and even found time for the walks he loves. . .

Points raised

Some of the points he was to raise in his talks with leaders were:

- South Africa is a regional power to be taken into account in any development in Southern Africa. The country is no "pushover" and will not tolerate foreign intervention in its internal affairs.
- South Africa is acting as a campaigner for Africa, more specifically Southern Africa. Asking for assistance for other countries is hardly the action of a destabiliser.
- South Africa urgently wants an internationally acceptable solution in Namibia. To keep the country running costs South Africa an annual R658-million, and this does not include security and military costs. In Bonn, Mr Botha made a widely reported offer to hand Namibia over, within two months, to any Western power who would foot the bill. There were, not surprisingly, no takers.

Cuban presence

- Withdrawal of the Cuban presence from Angola was an absolute prerequisite



Mrs Elize Botha at Castelo de Sao Jorge in Lisbon

for peace in Southern Africa. Mrs Margaret Thatcher agreed with this, the Prime Minister said after his visit to Chequers.

A question Mr Botha asked to which nobody had a reply was: If South Africa is all that bad, why are there more than 1.5-million illegal workers in the Republic?

Stamina

How did 68-year old Mr Botha manage to meet the demands of this programme and still remain unfailingly courteous and charming, even when sometimes asked some uninformed questions at Press conferences?

How did he manage to look fresh and relaxed all the time?

Mr Botha eats and drinks very moderately and he does not smoke. He sleeps very well, he says.

But clearly the presence of Mrs Elize Botha has a great deal to do with the Prime Minister's demeanour. He is very much a family man, and he and Mrs Botha are so obviously happy together — more often than not they are arm in arm. It will be remembered that when the announcement was made outside Parliament in Cape Town of Mr Botha's succession to Mr John Vorster, his first words were: "Where's my wife?"

Style

He had not gone to Europe to conquer the world, Mr Botha said on his arrival at D F Malan Airport, Cape Town, after *Matroosberg* had been escorted by four Mirage fighter aircraft of 3 Squadron SAAF for the last few hundred kilometres.

Perhaps not. But undeniably Mr Botha's style and presence have done much to further understanding among European leaders of South Africa's highly complex circumstances.

Mr R F Botha's part in this "Prime time" cannot be overestimated, for it was he who did all he could to make things easy and pleasant for the Press contingent, briefing them wherever possible — even at midnight, on one occasion.

Bravo, the Bothas!



Above: A table laid with Augarten porcelain and Austrian crystal in the Palais Palavicini, Vienna, where Mr Sallinger hosted a lunch for Mr Botha



Left: Little came of the direly predicted demonstrations against Mr Botha. There were about 40 rather unenthusiastic demos in Berne, Switzerland, an estimated 14 500 in London, who ranged from punks to supporters of the PLO and opponents of the Cruise missile, and a rather more active crowd in Bonn, where this young man is seen making his point