

NMO/011/002997

BUSINESS DAY, Johannesburg, 23 September 1991

Defence cuts cost 50 000 jobs

RECENT cuts in the defence budget have cost SA up to 50 000 jobs, many of them highly skilled, and could retard industrial development while damaging a potentially lucrative international arms export market, a leading local analyst says.

Jane's Defence Weekly SA correspondent Helmoed-Römer Heltman says the defence cuts should have been phased in slowly to allow development of arms exports markets and for Armscor to convert its expertise to commercial applications.

The bulk of a 30% defence cut over two years has been absorbed by the arms manufacturing sector, inhibiting its adaptation to the commercial sector, he says.

The defence budget has been slashed R8,8bn in real terms since 1989. Armscor

Armscor alive long enough to convert technology for commercial use and establish an international market.

Weapons and armaments are SA's biggest export of manufactured goods, says Armscor, which last week held its first SA weapons demonstration, primarily for foreign customers.

Armscor spokesmen confidently predicted last week the demonstration would lead to a marked improvement of international sales, making a significant contribution to a national economic recovery.

Spokesmen at the show maintained Armscor's tradition of silence about SA arms sales and customers, but Heltman says Middle East and African countries

JONATHAN REES

has retrenched more than 10 000 people, and its major contractors have laid off about 26 000 employees.

The job losses and forced rationalisation in the arms sector will severely curtail SA's industrial capability and expertise, Heltman says.

Leading electronic and engineering technology developed for military application will be wasted.

Heltman says the defence industry will "die" if it does not continue to get contracts from the SADF.

A steady flow of local orders could keep

have expressed interest.

The G6 165mm self-propelled artillery system was acknowledged as the best in the world, and the Rooivalk combat helicopter competed with the US Apache.

He believes the Rooivalk armoured combat reconnaissance vehicle is a class leader with only one competitor internationally, and that SA-made missiles are among world leaders.

Seventy G6 systems have been sold to the United Arab Emirates, and the success of the G6 in Turkish artillery trials recently means that Turkey could be placing an initial order of up to 200 units, Heltman says.

BUSINESS DAY, 23 September 1991

Agreement close on SADF

AGREEMENT on a code of conduct for the SA Defence Force was likely within the next few weeks, despite differences of emphasis between ANC and government proposals, sources in both camps said yesterday.

ANC sources expressed surprise at the "remarkably progressive proposals from this defence force", but believed them to be too general.

The ANC was also concerned that the proposals did not provide for "sufficient monitoring or enforcement mechanisms".

ANC and government leaders yesterday remained officially tight-lipped, saying they did not want to conduct negotiations through the media which might bedevil the process before it got properly underway.

Defence Minister Roelf Meyer said government had only received the ANC counter-proposals on the code 10 days ago and the SADF was still studying these. He expected negotiations to start within the next two weeks.

BILLY PADDOCK

An ANC source said its counter-proposals were not designed to wrest control of the SADF from the state.

"What we want as interim measures are windows into the operations of the SADF to try to open it to public scrutiny," he said.

The ANC has called for:

- The immediate disbandment of the SADF's special forces;

- The formation of a national defence commission appointed by the National Peace Secretariat to oversee all military matters; and

- The establishment of an ombudsman, as provided for in the SA Police code of conduct, answerable to the national peace committee to initiate and oversee investigations into misconduct by SADF members.

The ANC source said the reason for demanding the disbandment of the special forces was concern over allegations that they were behind the current wave of violence.

If the ANC did not suc-

ceed in getting the forces disbanded, it wanted mechanisms to ensure that these forces were above criticism.

The source said it had to be remembered that the negotiations for a code of conduct were being conducted within the broader negotiations of the Pretoria Minute and the incorporation of Umkhonto we Sizwe into the SADF.

The SADF proposals, which the ANC has not contested, include provisions:

- That each soldier will be legally responsible for his own actions and may disobey orders which are illegal or contrary to the constitution;

- That the SADF is answerable only to the constitution and not the governing party;

- For alternative forms of service and other conditions governing conscientious objectors; and

- The appointment of a commission to draw up guidelines for the education, training and deployment of a new SADF.

WORLD CAMPAIGN
PO Box 2 Lindeberg Gaard
N-1007 Oslo 10 Norway
Tel. (47-2) 30 13 45
Telex: 72314 AAM N

South African Reports

From WORLD CAMPAIGN

pages 1

Date 23/9/91

Telefax

Citizen Reporter

THE ANC will not change its venue for a fundraising dinner which will be held in Brits on Friday night despite threats from Right-wingers to stop it, ANC PWV regional organiser, Mr Elliot Mayisela said yesterday.

The function, to raise funds for the ANC's Brits office, is to take place at the Overberg Protea hotel and ANC's foreign affairs director, Mr Thabo Mbeki, will be guest speaker.

About 100 guests are expected.

Mr Mayisela said that the ANC had never disrupted any Right-wing activity and he hoped that the Right-wingers would act likewise on Friday night.

He said the threats were being treated "very seriously" but added that the venue would not be changed.

He said that he would be meeting the hotel manager, Mr Harry Dressel, as well as with local police to discuss security.

Mr Dressel said yesterday that being part of the Protea group the Overberg hotel was an "apolitical" hotel and anyone could make use of its facilities.

He suspected that there would be tension in the days prior to the dinner and said there would be extra security at the function.

ANC going ahead with dinner, despite threats

THE CITIZEN
Johannesburg,
23 September 1991