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Chikane outlines plan for exiles

TIM COHEN

SUN CITY — The National Co-ordinating Committee for the Reception of SA Exiles (NCCR) is set to become the major player in the repatriation of SA returnees.

SA Council of Churches general secretary the Rev Frank Chikane said yesterday it had been decided that the body would implement aid programmes designed by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

In an interview during the Institute for Personnel Management's annual convention at Sun City, Chikane said the UNHCR would have overall responsibility for the return of SA's estimated 40 000 exiles.

In practice, the UNHCR would handle legal aspects of the programme, while the International Organisation on Migration would transport exiles to SA.

Chikane said the NCCR would take responsibility for the "total logistics and programme once people have arrived in the country... to their integration into society."

"The UNHCR will be monitoring it, but we will actually be doing it," he said.

During his speech at the convention, he said six entry points had been agreed on. They were the four major SA airports and the Swaziland and Lesotho borders.

Government had undertaken to provide normal services to returning exiles, despite the NCCR's protest that they were not in a normal position and needed assistance to become re-integrated in SA society.



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Genmin puts seal on worldwide mining deal with French group ①

MATTHEW CURTIN

GENMIN, the Gencor group's mining arm, and French mining group Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières (BRGM) yesterday signed a wide-ranging agreement which will see the organisations participate in joint mining and exploration ventures worldwide.

The two companies have just been awarded the rights to mine gold at Montagne Tortue in French Guyana in South America.

Genmin chairman Brian Gilbertson and BRGM chairman Maurice Allegre signed the agreement yesterday evening shortly before the deal was officially announced by French Trade and Industry Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn, at the end of his week-long visit to SA.

Genmin mineral resources CE John Staubenheimer said the Guyanna prospect was "extremely exciting" and could see the establishment of a large opencast, low-cost gold mine.

A geological team was currently investigating the site and exploration would start before the end of the year.

Gilbertson said Genmin and BRGM, whose activities include geological survey

work financed by the French government and commercial and industrial operations involving the provision of mining services, were well-suited partners.

Genmin would benefit from BRGM's mining experience and links to the French government, helpful for investigating mining in Francophone Africa and overseas.

Genmin has taken a 10% or R9m stake in BRGM's French gold mining operation, Salsigne. Genmin will provide mining and metallurgical advice.

Expertise

Allegre said with dwindling mining opportunities in France, BRGM was keen to expand its overseas operations. Co-operation with a SA mining house, given the country's wealth of mining expertise, was a natural choice.

Both parties would be able to announce more details of joint ventures later in the year, and he said yesterday's agreement was the start of what would be a long-standing relationship.

US sanctions on their way out, says Crocker

TIM COHEN

but warned about its marginalisation.

"This region has the possibility of getting Africa back on the map and SA is the key to this region," he said.

The region would get the investment it deserved if it "got its act together," and provided the correct conditions.

Crocker said there was movement toward a period of capital pressure, but the real problem was not so much the lack of capital as the lack of skills.

He said outside mediation in SA's constitutional negotiation was not impossible, but was unnecessary at this stage, particularly since all the internal parties were already involved in discussions with one another.

Crocker scotched rumours that he was intending to re-enter the US administration, saying he was staying in the private sector for the time being and he was not negotiating any deals.

THE last US sanctions against SA could disappear soon, former US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Chester Crocker said yesterday.

Speaking in an interview at the Institute of Personnel Management's annual convention at Sun City, Crocker said he was sure US President George Bush would like to lift the remaining US federal sanctions as soon as possible.

As far as local and state sanctions were concerned, the situation was more complex and "we could move into the more distant future".

But Crocker said the state and local sanctions could be lifted if South Africans agreed to issue a united appeal for their repeal.

"That point may come sooner than you think," he said.

"But what is important is for people in the opposition here to have a role in the decision to lift sanctions," he said.

Crocker also expressed himself positively about the future of southern Africa

Gold Fields invests in Africa

MATTHEW CURTIN

Plumbridge said the economic future of SA and the rest of the continent were inextricably linked. "We must sink or swim together," he said.

Many developing countries were in the grips of a full-scale depression, the lack of international demand for their products accentuating the despair of peoples facing abject poverty. "Regrettably the developed nations are so concerned with their own economic conditions and those of the countries surrounding them... that the less developed countries are being fed little more than a diet of rhetoric," Plumbridge said.

African countries faced a "well-nigh impossible situation". In a national and regional context, it was critical that the SA economy should recover rapidly from the recession. The economic policy mix with its heavy socio-political overlay needed urgent review, he said.

GOLD FIELDS of SA was set to invest in a Zairean gold mining company which had a major concession and a first option to mine the balance of Zaire's gold mining district, chairman Robin Plumbridge said yesterday.

In his annual chairman's review he said Gold Fields had embarked on a cautious expansion programme outside of SA in the last year, and of the projects it was considering, the Zairean venture was at the most advanced stage pending the completion of financial arrangements.

Gold Fields would be in partnership with a Zairean state company, a group of Belgian-based entrepreneurs and international finance agencies. The mine would start as a small operation, but it had the potential to expand rapidly if a proposed exploration programme was successful.

Gold Fields's expansion into Africa follows Genmin's announcements of investigations into mining possibilities in Zambia and Engen's forays into oil exploration off the African coast.

SA's high-tech industry

FRENCH companies were looking at a substantial investment in high-tech industry in SA in the fields of satellite technology, aeronautics and telecommunications, French Trade and Industry Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn said last night.

He was speaking at the close of a four-day visit to SA, the first by a French cabinet minister since 1975. He was accompanied by senior executives from 25 French firms.

Earlier in the day Strauss-Kahn met ANC president Nelson Mandela and President F W de Klerk, both of whom agreed to a French proposal for training pro-

grammes for black top and middle managers to service new French investment.

ANC international affairs head Thabo Mbeki said after meeting Strauss-Kahn that foreign investors should start planning investment in SA now.

Strauss-Kahn said 90% of SA's political transformation had been completed and that France's coal embargo would remain as a symbolic trade sanction.

He said France wanted to increase its stake in SA's international trade which presently stands at 4%. French industries would also help develop infrastructure and housing.



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catches attention of French companies

PATRICK BULGER

Strauss-Kahn said that partly because France had applied sanctions as strictly as it had, it now wanted to expand trade with SA which was well below the share of SA's other European trading partners.

Strauss-Kahn, in an earlier briefing with Mbeki, said the French government would become involved in assisting an interim SA government to meet the country's housing and educational needs.

"An interim government will have a great need because people will be demand-

ing a lot," Strauss-Kahn said.

Investment alone would not meet all the needs. France would provide housing assistance as soon as an interim government was in charge, which he thought would happen in about eight months' time. He said an interim government would have to define its needs but that meeting housing demands was a priority.

Mbeki said an interim government of national unity would be faced with a range of demands in the fields of housing, education and training, and would thus "need to be empowered to address some of these

questions".

Mbeki, while denying that the ANC was softening on its sanctions policy, said new investment decided on today would materialise only in two years' time, by which stage SA would have a new constitution.

"We shall come to the point when it will be agreed the ban on new investment will be lifted. It is not yet the time."

But Mbeki urged foreign firms wanting to invest in SA to start preparing — "to the extent of coming to talk to trade unions, the ANC and other people".

Groups team up to get EC aid

KIM BENTLEY

matters further, either through Pretoria office or in Brussels.

Asked if the IDT and Development Bank might also receive EC funds, the spokesman said: "We might distribute funds differently. We might enlarge the number of recipients. It is in this context the discussions should be seen."

He said the quantity of aid would depend on what funds were available in the future.

Dangor said the meeting discussed "the changing circumstances inside SA, where development will play a key role in the whole process of change".

The aim was to establish "some framework within which a development programme can effectively be implemented in the next two or three years".

Ways were being found whereby the different development organisations could work "on a less competitive basis".

Dangor stressed that Kagiso's community-based role would continue. "We are expanding our co-operation in SA for the benefit of those communities. It is now up to South Africans to get together back home and begin to give more concrete meaning to the kind of co-operation we have talked about."

Dangor said the meeting was initiated in SA, where for several months workshops had been held to bring the development agencies together.

The three organisations, he said, had different traditions and, although working closer together, would not merge into "a huge consortium to collect and distribute funds".

He said there had been no real antagonism between development organisations in the past, "but they had different purposes for existing".

"Those differences no longer exist and there is no longer any reason why we shouldn't co-operate."

LONDON — The Kagiso Trust, the Independent Development Trust (IDT) and the Development Bank of Southern Africa are to work together on major development programmes to end decades of deprivation in black townships.

At a meeting in Brussels yesterday, senior representatives of the three SA bodies met European Commission officials to discuss future co-operation.

Joint action will combine Kagiso's grassroots credibility with the expertise of the two other bodies in a nationwide development programme.

The fulfilment of the townships over the next few years is seen as crucial if stability is to be achieved in a post-apartheid democracy.

At the disposal of the development agencies are the IDT's R2bn from government, the Kagiso Trust's EC funding, which amounted to \$40m this year, and further funds which the IDT and Development Bank hope to raise in the coming months on the European financial markets.

Attending yesterday's meeting were IDT chairman Jan Steyn, Development Bank chairman Simon Brand, Kagiso Trust national director Achmed Dangor and general secretary Erico Molobi.

The EC is the trust's main donor. The \$40m channelled through the trust this year is about two-thirds of total EC aid to SA.

Among officials the South Africans met were the European Commission's southern Africa director G Livi and its development division director-general Dieter Frisch.

A commission spokesman said the meeting was "very interesting and very positive". He said it was the first time the commission had met the IDT and Development Bank.

He said the meeting would be followed up by the organisations within SA. The commission would then take

Mandela goes in to bat for World Cup play

ANC president Nelson Mandela will support SA cricket's bid to play in next year's World Cup.

Mandela, who met United Cricket Board of SA (UCBSA) MD Ali Bacher and former West Indian Test captain Clive Lloyd yesterday, said the ANC would do "everything in our power to support SA's application".

Bacher confirmed the UCBSA executive voted at the weekend to accept the invitation to the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand from February 22 to March 25. The International Cricket Council (ICC)

GUY HAWTHORNE

Mandela praised cricket's commitment to a development programme, saying that "non-racialism in sport must not just start at the top; it must also be seen to appear at the bottom".

Bacher thanked Mandela "for the invaluable role" played by ANC spokesman on sport Steve Tshwete.

Tshwete, largely responsible for unifying the game under the UCBSA banner, saw no reason for opposition.

reluctance from any country to the application now that SA cricket has been firmly placed on a non-racial basis."

Our Cape Town correspondent reports that SA Rugby Board president Danie Craven and Mandela are to meet for the first time on Friday, at DP MP Jannie Motenberg's Stellenbosch home.

Motenberg said a meeting between the two could be "symbolically important in unravelling" deadlocks in sporting matters. Tshwete would also attend.