



South Africa @work

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From the Desk of the Consul General



Dear Friends,

As we are going "to press", the news of an impending State Visit by the President of the United States, President George W. Bush to several African Nations was confirmed. Indeed I had to forfeit my column for an extract from a statement released by the South African Government. We are all troubled on what's going on in Iraq today. We are encouraged however by the progress in the Middle East but also concerned by the continued hostilities among the parties of the conflict in that region. Pockets of conflict have flurried in the West African region of Liberia and impediments to the road to democracy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to undermine on otherwise optimistic progress towards peace in the Congo. The situation in Zimbabwe has become very grave.

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Aziz Pahad addressed journalists in Tshwane (Pretoria) on June 30, 2003 on some of these issues and what our hopes are for the visit of the President of the United States to our region. Below is an extract: -

Government stands ready to engage United States President

George W. Bush on numerous international issues saying there is "no fundamental problem" between two countries' bilateral relations.

Foreign affairs deputy minister Aziz Pahad made the remarks in Pretoria following reports that the two countries did not see eye-to-eye on numerous issues especially the recent war in Iraq and political instability Zimbabwe.

President Bush is expected to arrive in South Africa on the evening of July 8 and is scheduled to meet President Mbeki at the Union Buildings in Pretoria the following day, before he heads to Senegal, Botswana, Uganda and Nigeria.

This will be the second visit to the continent by a US leader following that by former President Bill Clinton a few years ago.

Addressing journalists in Pretoria, Minister Pahad said the two nations had agreed on the eradication of weapons of mass destruction but differed on ways to deal with getting rid of deadly weapons.

He however said that bilateral relations between the two nations remained watertight.

Now the challenge was how to deal with the extremely volatile situation in the post-war Iraq, which had the potential to further fuel tension in the oil-rich region.

"Our objective is now to work with all countries in the world, we (Africa) are very far but Iraq impacts on many things," he said.

He added that the objective was to consult with many countries including President Bush and his delegation to implement resolution 1483, that calls for the reconstruction of Iraq after its assault by US-led military forces.

"We would like to get their analysis of what is going on there...we need to see how we can stabilize that situation," he said, adding that government views on Iraq were that conditions ought to be created for Iraqis to start running their own government.

On Zimbabwe, Mr. Pahad said government remained convinced that only Zimbabweans, with the help of the international community, could find solutions to their problems.

He added that President Bush's visit would provide the South Africa and American leadership to openly exchange views on the way forward.

"I hope this visit will once again give us the opportunity to frankly discuss Zimbabwe and discuss what we suppose to do."

President Bush is expected to make an announcement to aid Zimbabwe.

In addition to talks around the political instability in Zimbabwe, the embattled Middle East peace process, the two Presidents are also expected to discuss the New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad), global terrorism and conflicts on the continent.

- Extracts from BuaNews 29 June 2003 - www.gcis.gov.za/buanews/index.html



Farewell, Walter Sisulu ...

Cetshwayo and General Mokana (Mokanda).

Another inspiring figure was David, the tiny man who slew the giant Goliath.

As a child he frequently visited the home of Dr Rubusana, an old man who had founded the Native Congress in the Eastern Cape. Rubusana was a direct political influence on Sisulu who later became a supporter of Clement Kadalie's ICU in East London when he worked there.

At 14 Sisulu left mission school to work. Between 1928 and 1940 he worked in a range of jobs: as a delivery man for a dairy; in the masonry and carpentry department, then as a miner, of the Rose Deep Mine in Germiston; as a domestic; as a baker for Premier Biscuits; as a paint mixer for Herbert Evans in Johannesburg; as a packer for a tobacconist; as a part-time teller at the Union Bank of South Africa, and after 1938 as an advertising salesperson and real estate agent.

In 1943, as a founder member of the ANC Youth League, he attended conferences of the Federation of Democratic Youth in Romania and the International Union of Students in Poland. He also traveled to the USSR, China and the UK. In 1949 he became ANCYL secretary. He published a book on African nationalism commissioned by the government of India in 1954. In the '50s and early '60s he also wrote

numerous articles for New Age, the Guardian and Liberation.

He was jailed for life along with the other Rivonia trialists in 1963. On Robben Island he completed a BA in art history and anthropology and read more than 100 biographies. Sisulu's wife is Albertina Thetiwa Sisulu. They have five natural children who have all contributed to the South African struggle: Max, Anthony Mlungisi, Zwelakhe, Lindiwe and Nonkululeko. In addition they have four adopted children: Jonqumzi, Gerald and Beryl (whose biological mothers are Sisulu's sister and his cousin) and finally Samuel, a former Robben Islander who begged to be part of Sisulu's family and has now been formally adopted.

Sisulu was released from prison on 15 October 1989. He was elected Deputy President at the ANC national conference in July, 1991. He became a patron of the UDF, the Omhle Trust and the Twa Twa Trust, and an honorary chancellor of the University of Venda. He holds four honorary doctorate degrees. He has been awarded the Isitwalandwe by the ANC on the 80th Anniversary of the ANC, Bloemfontein, 8 January, 1992.

Walter Sisulu, a veteran of South Africa's anti-apartheid movement, passed away on 5 May 2003. He was 90 years old.

It is not widely known that Sisulu's mother Alice Sisulu was a domestic worker and his father, Victor Dickenson, was a white civil servant.

Born on May 18 1912, Sisulu and his elder sister Rosabella were brought up in Ngcobo, Transkei, by his mother, his uncle Dyantyi Hlakula and his grandparents. Sisulu learned a great deal about Xhosa culture and the laws of society from his influential uncle, who was the headman of the village and a lay preacher.

One of Sisulu's earliest childhood memories was the trip to Cofimvaba, a village town, to be vaccinated during the influenza epidemic. He also recalls playing football and tinte, a Xhosa variant of cricket.

One of his early political influences was Marcus Garvey, whose supporters preached the philosophy of Africanism - getting "back to Africa". History lessons at the Anglican Missionary Institute in Ngcobo also inspired Sisulu greatly. It was during these classes that he learned about Shaka, Moshoeshe,

Briefing by Deputy Minister Aziz Pahad regarding the AU Summit in Mozambique, Incoming Visit by President Bush and the Outgoing Visit by President Mbeki to Jamaica

Jamaica State Visit and Address to CARICOM

As you know, President Mbeki - accompanied by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Public Enterprises will shortly be landing in Jamaica. During this visit President Mbeki will pay a State visit and address the CARICOM summit.

In the last year, the program of the Department of Foreign Affairs has been that President Mbeki addresses regional summits in order to market NEPAD and the challenges facing the African continent.

CARICOM is a large group that plays a great role in multilateral fora - NAM, the UN, etc.

We believe that this relationship has not been fully exploited in order to boost south-south relations - in this regard we believe this visit will play a key role in boosting these relations. President Mbeki's visit to Jamaica is the first such high level visit to the region

As the regards the composition of CARICOM - many of the lowest developed countries exist in the region - it will be essential to mobilize them especially for the WTO Cancun meeting, etc.

African Union Summit

The African Union Summit being hosted by Mozambique will begin at the end of this week with the following meetings:

4-6 July 2003 - senior officials meeting
7-9 July 2003 - executive council of Ministers
11-12 July 2003 Heads of State Summit

Matters on the agenda include administrative, political, social and economic issues.

NEPAD will also be high on the agenda and in terms of this, the Summit will be briefed on the progress in the implementation of NEPAD, the G-8 meeting, etc.

The most important thing to be dealt with at the

meetings is the operationalisation of the African Union since the launch in Durban 2002, this inter alia includes, the election of Commissioners.

The establishment and operationalisation of the Peace and Security Council will also be discussed. Without this body to deal with conflicts on the Continent, Africa cannot become proactive in terms of conflict resolution.

The Council will be composed on 15 members - 3 from each of the 5 regions in Africa

Once established, this will be the most important instrument with which to tackle conflict resolution in Africa.

We hope that this process can be taken further the implementation of the African Parliament - we hope that this will help us achieve the objectives for development of the Continent.

(Continued on page 9)

South African Currency Rating Upgraded

The international rating agency Standard and Poor's has raised South Africa's local currency rating to AA-1 from AA-2, signaling the country's 'adequate' capacity to meet its financial commitments. The long-term foreign currency ratings were raised from BBB- to BBB. The outlook is stable. The upgrade comes as no surprise and reflects the continued strength of the country's macro-economic performance and external position, the agency said. Standard and Poor's cited South Africa's track record on fiscal management as the key factor underpinning the country's credit upgrade.

In addition, credit analyst Mame-Fatou Diagne the SA government had continued to strengthen track record of sound economic management and implementation in a challenging external environment. 'And it is not expected to deviate from its course of orthodox economic policies in the foreseeable future,' she said. The agency's credit rating is a current opinion of the creditworthiness of an obligor with respect to a specific financial obligation, a specific class of financial obligations, or a specific financial program (including ratings on medium term note programs and commercial paper programs) said its reform

Standard and Poor's also hailed South Africa's inflation targeting as one of the contributing factors in ensuring prudent Monetary Policy. 'The government's strategy of broadening its tax base and improving tax administration continues to underpin a strong revenue performance providing government spending flexibility,' the agency said. The South African Reserve Bank is adamant in keeping the inflation target at three to six percent. Reserve Bank Governor Tito Mboweni has been cautious in cutting interest rates, which is at 13.5 percent after leaving it unchanged in March. The National Treasury yesterday said the upgrade came in an environment of a number of credit downgrades and defaults, signifying the fruits of the South African government's labor.

The upgrade by Standard and Poor comes after another International rating agency, Fitch, last week announced that the country's long-term local currency rating was raised from BBB+ to A-. The long-term foreign currency rating was also upgraded from BBB- to BBB. (*BuaNews*)

Trade Administration Law

Government has failed to meet its deadline for the implementation of new legislation to govern the administration of international trade in SA. The International Trade Administration Act was promulgated in January, and was scheduled to come into effect today. This date has been postponed to June 1. The new law is expected to bring about improvements in SA's international trade administration, because the bill will replace the outdated international trade legislation and related institutions with a modern law and structure. Board on Tariffs and Trade head Nomonde Maimela said there

were no significant stumbling blocks in bringing the act to operation. It was a legal process, however, which was complicated and had been more protracted than initially anticipated, she said. The change to SA's international trade administration legislation will include the transformation of the board into the International Trade Administration Commission. The function of the two organizations will remain broadly similar, namely to carry the responsibility for the administration of all aspects of international trade. However, the new bill will allow the commission to act on behalf of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) countries and it calls for wider participation by these countries, which include Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland and SA. This point has attracted some criticism from parties who are concerned that the duration of investigations by the commission into unfair trade would be prolonged if SA's SACU neighbors were consulted. The bill will also make provision for regulations such as trade remedies, including antidumping, countervailing and safeguard measures, to be introduced to afford domestic industries improved protection. SA has guidelines in these areas, but these had to be formalized and brought in line with World Trade Organization requirements. "Both the Board on Tariffs and Trade Act and the Import and Export Control Act, 61 of 1967, are outdated and had to be revamped," said Maimela. As the functions of both these acts were to be performed by the commission, it made sense to draft a new act, rather than simply amending the existing legislation, she said. The change to a commission structure, including the provisions of the International Trade Administration Act, would streamline the (international trade administration) process, she said. "The commission aims to be an internationally recognized efficient international trade authority taking SA into the 21st century." (*Business Day*)

PPI slows to historic level

Expectations of an interest rate cut in August of at least 1 percentage point were cemented after producer price inflation slowed to its lowest level in history, boosting bonds and the rand. The stronger rand and lower oil prices pushed the producer price index (PPI) to 1.1 percent in May from 3.3 percent in April, according to data released by Statistics SA. The PPI shows the rate of increase in the prices producers charge retailers. Stats SA data only go back to 1975, although data on Bloomberg show that the latest figure is the lowest level for PPI since January 1971. The market, which had expected a 2.6 percent rise in PPI, was stunned and sent bonds to fresh highs. Short-term gilts strengthened sharply as the market factored in more aggressive interest rate cuts by the Reserve Bank. The yield on the RIS0, due in 200S, strengthened by 40 basis points to 8.91 percent shortly after Spm, while that of the RIS3, due in 2010, improved to 8.93 percent from 9.13 per-

cent on Tuesday. The rand rallied with bonds and a firmer euro to a best of R7.6406 against the dollar before retracing to R7.6624 shortly after 5 pm from R7.7610 on Tuesday. Chris Hart, a senior treasury economist at Absa, described the PPI data as "staggering". "The debate for the Reserve Bank's monetary policy committee meeting in August will now revolve around whether interest rates will be cut by only 1 percentage point or by 1.5 percentage points," he said. "A cut of 1 percentage point is a dead certainty." Absa expected cuts of at least 3 percentage points by February next year. The market had overestimated inflation because "no one can test their inflation models, as we do not have the experience of a strong rand". The rand has gained almost 12 percent against the dollar this year after rising 40 percent last year. If the rand strength was maintained, the Reserve Bank might undershoot its inflation target of between 3 percent and 6 percent for CPIX (consumer inflation excluding mortgage rates), Hart said. Producer prices tend to lead consumer prices by at least three months. Dawie Roodt, the chief economist of PLJ Financial Services, said producer inflation could be pushed into deflation as soon as August. He expected interest rates to be cut at least another three times this year, with a fourth cut likely in February next year. Monica Ambrosi of Standard Bank said the Reserve Bank might cut rates by 1.5 percentage points in August, following a surprise reduction of 1.5 percentage points earlier this month. "With prices having tumbled so fast and furious at the producer level, price moderation at the consumer level is expected to intensify in the months ahead." The biggest contributors to the decline in PPI were mining and quarrying, petroleum and coal products, and processed food, said Elaine van Heerden of m Cubed Asset Management. Imported PPI fell from minus 1.4 percent in April to an annual rate of minus 4.8 percent in May, while local PPI came in at 3.4 percent compared with 5.1 percent in April. (*Business Report Online*)

South Africa the largest investor in Africa

The largest amount of foreign direct investment into Africa comes from South Africa, with an annual average of \$1.4 billion invested, Business Day reported on Thursday, July 3. According to research analysts Liquid Africa, the continent offers South African companies high growth opportunities and impressive profit margins. The amount invested in Africa by the country far outstrips investment from the US, Britain and France. Investment by South African companies is seen increasing as they gain a better grasp of the risks and rewards of investing in Africa. These investments are accounting for a growing share of assets, profit and revenue, according to the daily. The relaxing exchange control regulations for local companies to invest in Africa is one of the reasons for this investment, according to Liquid Africa, while the appetite for African risk is increasing. Exports to the African region have risen 59% in the last three years. These include machinery,

VI&Ps Visas, Immigration and Passports

A REQUEST FOR PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING IN RENDERING A MORE EFFECTIVE SERVICE



A few weeks ago I bumped into a fellow South African who has been living in the US for the last fifteen years. He informed me

about his intention to return to South Africa for to pursue business interests. I quickly complimented him on the kind of business he was going to set up and the number of jobs he will create for the unemployed at home.

“Anyway sir, I wanted to call you for some time to ask for application forms for a passport and ID book”, he said. “I have the old navy blue passport issued in 1983 and an old green ID card”, he continued.

“What is the exact date of your departure to SA, I asked him anxiously. “Within three months”, he said. “That won’t be possible at all”, I told him. “It will take nearly six months to finalize both applications”.

This is a typical case that I receive regularly. Indeed, given the process involved in processing the applications we receive, it is always difficult to issue on time, applicants who do not have valid documentation. For instance, for a person who has been holding an old green ID card of South Africa, the process to issue a mere ID number involves verification of the records provided by the applicants determination of the person’s citizenship and classification of the fingerprints the applicant. In most cases, the duration of the process can run up to six months— well above the time set in terms of the statement of standards. The same expectation from the public to issue requested documentations speedily is also experienced with applications for birth, death and marriage certificates. These applications require obtaining registers used when a person was initially registered. The retrieval of the documentation from the archives is also a long process that also may also end up in requesting district and regional offices to provide much needed records.

In a survey of timeliness in issuing the certificates requested by the applicants, this office found that nearly 60% of them were issued on time. The reasons for the late issuance of the remaining 40% ranged from scant information provided by the applicants to failure of our headquarters to locate registers of the applicants. In the same survey, it was also found that over 80% of applications processed directly by this office are finalized within a week and the remaining 20% within a month. This remaining 20% was found to be mostly problematic cases that needed further investigation.

Given the current technological developments taking place within our department, prospects are that within a year or two it will be possible to issue documents, especially where issuances are dependent on the retrieval of archived documentation, almost immediately. On our side, attempts to overcome the shortcomings in our service delivery have been characterized by asking the applicants to apply on time, paying for the couriering of documents in South Africa and also directly contacting our district and regional offices to provide needed information before even forwarding the application to our headquarters. In so doing, the rendering of the service that is largely cheap ends up being expensive and indeed taking a long time to be rendered. It is against this background that I want to request everyone who has not applied for a new passport, bar coded ID or any vital official documents to start now and not to wait until they are in dire need for them.

Over and above that, I want to request anyone who has applied for any official document and his or her application is taking long to be finalized to – please, be patient and understanding as I am doing everything in my power to ensure their speedy issuances.

Government has increased funds for AIDs work

The importance of the Human Rights Commission undertaking the task of tracking the Government’s achievements and failings in terms of the solemn promise of our Constitution is fully appreciated.

However monitoring reports do not always make hot news. And what readers might not relish from the story in Sowetan headlined “Under pressure” is that recent HRC review stopped short at March 2002.

The information therefore does not reflect the Government’s present response to HIV and Aids. And the Department of Health welcomes this opportunity to give a more up-to-date picture.

Understandably, in a human rights document the commission focused on the case in which the Constitutional Court instructed the Government to increase access to the antiretroviral drug Nevirapine to reduce the risk of HIV-positive women infecting their babies during child birth.

The court required that we do so in two ways.

It acknowledged the value of an existing programme for Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) and ordered that this should be expanded as rapidly as resources would allow. This programme not only offers Nevirapine to pregnant women who test HIV-positive, but it provides other services to boost the health of the mother and increase the chances of her having a healthy, HIV-negative baby.

The court also required that, in areas where this PMTCT programme did not exist, doctors at public health facilities should be able to use their judgement and prescribe Nevirapine for pregnant women who were HIV positive provided that patients were properly counseled.

On the day that judgement was handed down, the Minister of Health issued a statement indicating the public health sector’s intention to comply with it.

There has been a rapid expansion of the programme since then. In

just nine months the number of health facilities participating in the PMTCT programme has grown to 658 from about 250. The strength of the programme still differs from province to province, because service delivery systems vary considerably.

One of the lessons of PMTCT is that is impossible to build a strong specialist programme where the foundation of the health system is weak. The programme has not taken root best where clinics and hospitals have adequate numbers of staff, where management positions are filled and training systems exist, where facilities are big enough to accommodate new HIV testing and counseling services and there are good links with community organizations that can help counsel and support HIV-positive women.

As the HRC emphasized, increases in dedicated funding HIV, AIDs and tuberculosis is crucial.

There has been a huge increase in the funding for HIV, AIDs and TB. The HRC monitoring ended in the 2001-02 financial year. In that year the amount that flowed through the national health budget to the provinces for AIDs work was R54 million. In the following year it increased to R210 million and in the current year it stands at R334 million.

In addition, for the first time last year the Treasury advanced an amount directly to the provinces to help their health systems cope with the increased demand for care arising from HIV, Aids and TB. This amount was R400 million last year, and exceeds R1.1 billion this year.

Equally important are other changes in funding of health services to address some of the system’s weaknesses. They include:

- ❑ Substantial increase in capital spending to rebuild, renovate and equip hospitals and clinics.
- ❑ Reallocating funds for specialized hospital services to develop such services in

Sduduzo Ka-Mbili

Dancer, Choreographer, Actor, Teacher, Activist and Founder of **Juxtapower** (South Africa's Song & Dance)...



SDUDUZO KA-MBILI was born in Engonyameni, a rural area in Durban, South Africa. He started attending school there at the age of four, and later relocated to a township ghetto where destitution was inescapable. As a young man he developed an interest in soccer, boxing and the martial arts. However, it was not until high school in the late 1980's that he was exposed to formal dance training. During

that time, no one in his community was aware of 'dance as a profession, which would later make it difficult for his parents to comprehend and support him for his career choice.

In 1989, Sduduzo attended a Shell Corporation sponsored program at the University of Natal. For the next two years he studied dance and drama. In 1991, he joined Phenduka Dance Theater, where he received dance training from Alfred Hinkel, (a world-renowned choreographer) who continued training him in contemporary dance.

Later that year, he moved to Johannesburg to perform as a dancer, singer, and actor in Mbongeni Ngema's Sarafina (The Movie), starring Whoopi Goldberg. In 1992, he moved back to Durban to finish school and join Body and Soul Dance Company. He later relocated to



Cape town where he continued his training with Alfred Hinkel and performed his first musical, Poison. In 1993, he joined Soweto Dance Theater directed by the great Jackie Semela (the internationally renowned African dance teacher) and in 1994 he was offered a dance position with Free Flight Dance Company, directed by (the innovator of South African contemporary dance) Adele Blank who also continued to train him in her own dance technique.

In 1996, he studied photography and journalism at INTED College. In 1997, Sduduzo

was one of the three recipients of a full scholarship to train at the world-renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Center in New York City. During his training he was given an opportunity to create a piece (Izinhlungu zami) for Alvin Ailey Repertory Dance Ensemble. It was then that Sduduzo discovered his signature, the power of Juxta. In late 1999 he resolved to establish a song and dance troupe that would be representative of the S. African culture, JUXTAPOWER. It has been a long journey... since then Sduduzo has been nominated as one of the 25 to watch by DANCE MAGAZINE, for 2003.

Sduduzo now resides in New York City where he is performing, teaching and doing residencies throughout the country. He is an animal activist, a great lover and fighter for the rights of all living beings. He continues his Liberal Arts studies at New York State University.

For more information about Sduduzo Ka-Mbili, please visit www.juxtapower.org.

Straeuli to ring changes

Springbok coach Rudolf Straeuli is expected to make eight changes to the team for Saturday's Test against Argentina in the EP Stadium here. In the meantime, Andre Pretorius (flyhalf) has withdrawn from the team and has been sent home because he is suffering from flu. Earlier, Ashwin Willemse (wing) also withdrew after injuring his left ankle during practice on Monday. It is expected that Straeuli will opt for a no-nonsense approach and that's why tough forwards like Robbie Kempson (prop), Cobus Visagie (prop), Corne Krige (flank, captain) and AJ Venter will probably get the nod in an attempt to neutralize the strong Pumas pack. These changes were on the cards from the moment Straeuli requested that a heavier scrum machine be made available for Bok practices this week. He also asked that the machine be loaded with concrete containers to ensure a proper challenge for the "new" Bok pack. Straeuli intended selecting Kempson and Visagie as a front-row combination only in the Tri-Nations, but the Pumas' excellent scrummaging against France recently probably convinced him to select them earlier in place of Lawrence Sepahaka and Richard Bands. However, Bands and Sephaka grabbed their opportunity against the Scots and should be certain for the World Cup tournament later this year. Quinton Davids' power and weight may count in his favor if Straeuli has to choose between him and Selborne Boome as Victor Matfield's partner at lock. Krige's inclusion at the side of the scrum in place of Hendrik Gerber was expected, while Venter will replace Wikus van Heerden on the other side of the scrum.

Craig Davidson will get his chance at scrumhalf in Joost van der Westhuizen's place, while Gcobani Bobo will replace Trevor Halstead in midfield. Halstead will be on the bench. The experienced Pieter Rossouw will take Willemse's place on the wing, and with these eight changes, Straeuli will probably have more or less the team he will be looking at to carry the flag for South Africa in the Tri-Nations tournament. A possible team against Argentina: Jaco van der Westhuyzen; Stefan Terblanche, Marius Joubert, Gcobani Bobo, Pieter Rossouw; Louis Koen, Craig Davidson; Pedrie Wannenburg, AJ Venter, Corne Krige (c), Victor Matfield, Quinton Davids, Cobus Visagie, Danie Coetzee, Robbie Kempson. Reserves: Lawrence Sephaka, Richard Bands, Selborne Boome/Wikus van Heerden, Bob Skinstad, Joost van der Westhuizen, Trevor Halstead, Brent Russell. (News24 Online)

SA could battle in England: Cullinan

Former Test batsman Daryll Cullinan has warned that the South African pace attack will struggle to bowl out England in the upcoming five-match cricket Test series. Cullinan, who signed a year's contract with the Easterns, said South Africa had failed to unearth a suitable replacement for premier strike bowler Allan Donald. "We'll probably do well in the one-day series," said the 36-year-old Cullinan, who will also captain of the defending Supersport champions next season, "but it may be a different story in the Test series. "They'll find the five days very tough. "It's a very long tour and we're quite vulnerable in a couple of departments," added Cullinan. In particular

Cullinan identified a lack of confidence as possibly the most debilitating shortcoming of the tourists. "If we start well then we'll be okay. But England will know this and will look for early successes. "Also, we haven't found anyone who can replace Allan. "They certainly could've done with a guy like Nantie Hayward." According to Cullinan, South Africa's predominantly seam and swing attack will hold no terrors for the English batsmen who are reared on a steady diet of medium pace bowling. "We've always had success when we've banged it in hard over there. AD (Donald) did that very well. Now it's all up to Makhaya Ntini. "The whole series will revolve around our ability to bowl them out. "If you're unable to bowl a team out, you're battling under a whole lot of other pressures. "The last time we had to bat under those conditions was when we played against Australia." According to Ray Jennings, the Easterns coach, Cullinan's extraordinary class should make it very difficult for convener of selectors Omar Henry to ignore his credentials for next summer's West Indian tour. This despite Cullinan apparently retiring from international cricket. "That's not true at all," insisted Cullinan. "I don't know when that rumor became fact. "But getting back into the national team is not my main goal. "My primary aim is to ensure that Easterns goes from strength to strength." Apart from Cullinan, Easterns are also keen to sign an overseas professional. Jennings explained those negotiations with players from the West Indies, Pakistan and India had already begun. (*Business Day Online*)

Day of the African Child



Historically observed on June 16th, the "Day of the African Child" began in 1991. The celebration was organized by the Organization of African Unity in memory of black South African school children who were massacred in Soweto on June 16, 1976. The 1976 bloodshed was touched off by student resentment over being taught in Afrikaans. Protesters soon began condemning all of apartheid's injustices and rioting broke out nationwide. Hundreds of young people died across South Africa in the weeks that followed.

Since then, *The Day of the African Child* has played an important role in helping the world remember the slain students as well as in raising awareness about children of the African Diaspora, the obstacles that impede their development, and their promise for the future.

Since 2000, the United States Planning Committee for the Day of the African Child - The Links, Inc., The South African Consulate General, Southern University, Manhattanville College, North Carolina A&T, and The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture - along with numerous site sponsors, has organized an annual international videoconference, connecting youth of the African Diaspora. From the original three sites, our effort has grown to include seven US cities and two international cities - Dakar, Senegal and Johannesburg, South Africa.

The theme for this year is "What We Can Do: Self Determination for Youth of the African Diaspora". The 2003 videoconferences focused on organizing for change. In the 2002 videoconference of the same theme, the youth participants raised several key areas of concern in their lives and communities. This year's conference centered around four broad issues the young people identified: Education "Environment" Women/ Girls' Rights " Health. The videoconference was held on June 13, 2003.

For more information, please visit:
www.dayoftheafricanchild.org



Local gas fields primed for rapid development

For a long time South Africa has relied on coal for cheap energy, but growing environmental awareness and new exploration technology is resulting in the very rapid development of an entirely new industry in this country, one that involves the recovery and use of natural gas.

This week US company Forest Oil, the major operator of the offshore Ibhubesi field, north of Saldanha Bay, said there was 13 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in the field, about half that available from the North Sea. The company estimates that there is enough gas for investors to fire up to at least three new power stations, to fund a pipeline to provide additional gas to Moss gas and to provide feedstock for the building of a new gas-fired synfuels plant on the west coast using Sasol technology.

These projects, including the pipelines, amount to billions of Rands in potential new investments.

On the other side of the country, nearly 70 percent of Sasol's \$1.2 billion project to bring natural gas from Temane in Mozambique to Secunda and Sasolburg in South Africa has already been completed. About \$500 million has been spent. The gas will replace coal as the primary energy source for the Sasol chemical industrial plant in Sasolburg. Substantially cleaner gas emission and much reduced water consumption are envisaged. The gas will also be used as supplementary feedstock for the synfuels plants at Secunda.

Sasol distributes gas to about 600 other industrial customers through a separate 1,400km pipeline leading from Sasolburg and Secunda to Pretoria, Brits, Durban and Witbank. Sasol's Gauteng customers will begin converting from hydrogen-rich gas to natural gas from Mozambique during the first half of 2004. Egoli Gas Marketing's customers in Johannesburg will convert to natural gas the year after.

In the sea off Namibia, Chevron Texaco and Energy Africa are assessing the feasibility of extracting gas from the Kudu field. Studies to build a power station in Namibia and a gas pipeline to the Western Cape, including converting a coal power station in Cape Town into a gas power station, are under way. The use of gas is a world trend. In the UK the poor financial health of the nuclear industry has been blamed on its inability to compete with power plants using North Sea gas.

Europe and the US are criss-crossed with natural gas pipelines.

Last month shareholders Chevron Texaco, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, Shell and Ghana's Tokoradi Power signed for a \$500 million natural gas pipeline from fields in southern Nigeria and Guinea to Lagos, and along the west African coast to Ghana, Togo and Benin. Negotiations for this pipeline started 10 years ago. Jack Holliday, the chief executive of PetroSA, which promotes oil and gas exploration in this country, said there was no doubt gas would become part of a matrix of energy sources in the future South Africa. This would include energy from coal, hydroelectricity, the nuclear pebble bed modular reactor and other alternative methods.

He said that by 2008 South Africa would need an additional 1000 megawatts of power a year to meet demand for electricity. To put this figure into perspective Koeberg's two nuclear generators have a combined capacity of 1,800 megawatts a year.

So far, South Africa's electricity utility, Eskom, has kept out of the gas business, although it operates two relatively small gas turbine power plants in Cape Town and East London. Spokesperson Fanie Zulu confirmed on Friday that Eskom would support the development of gas-fired power stations where it was feasible and the supply of gas made it possible.

He said the jury was still out on who would operate or build the next power station because of the government's restructuring of the electricity distribution and generation industries.

Holliday said there "enormous" gas reserves around the world, while oil reserves were declining.

Gas is an environmentally friendly alternative to coal and it does not carry the geopolitical risk of oil, which is controlled largely by a cartel of countries in the Middle East. Gas is also easier and cheaper to transport than electricity because of the large transmission losses incurred in electricity cables.

In South Africa, although a commercial price of gas had not yet been determined - which in turn determines the feasibility for further exploration - indications were that more gas deposits would be found, said Holliday. *-The Business Report*

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SOUTH AFRICAN EVENTS

South African National Pavilion at the 49th

Summer Fancy Food Show

Jacob K. Javits Convention Center
New York City

29 June - 1 July 2003
Admission fee: \$35.00



The South African National Pavilion (Booth Nos. 4558 and 4660) at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City showcased products from 28 South African companies from 29 June to 1 July 2003.

For information about the exhibitors, please visit www.southafrica-newyork.net.

Vusi Mahlasela at Irving Plaza

Sunday 27 July 2003

Door opens at 7:00 p.m.

Show starts at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$28 in advance/\$32 day of the show

SOBs presents the "The Voice of Mamelodi," Vusi Mahlasela on Sunday July 27th at Irving Plaza. Vusi Mahlasela sings as a bird does: in total response to being alive. He is a natural, blessed with the gift of song. And he has the genuine artist's highly intelligent application to develop his heaven-sent talent, becoming a guitarist, a poet and composer of ever-growing accomplishment. As music runs in his veins, so does strong awareness of our times and place, and the people, who, like him, give expression to these. He generously brings new life to the work of other poets by setting it to his music, adding the passion, warmth and tenderness of his voice.

For more information about the show, please visit: www.sobs.com

11th Annual Scarsdale Braai

Kingsland Park in Sleepy Hollow, New York

Saturday, July 19, 2003

12:00 noon to 6:00 pm

The next Scarsdale Braai will be held on July 19, 2003 at the Kingsland Park in Sleepy Hollow, New York. For more information, please call (212) 624-9110, (800) 273-2832 or visit www.scarsdalebraai.com

New York-New Jersey Springbok Club Get-Together

The next South African get together will be held on August 14 2003 at Pig & Whistle, 47th Street (between 6th and 7th Avenues) from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm.

For more information, please call or visit <http://www.nynjspringbok.com>

Volunteer Work and Internship Opportunities in Africa

Due to a large number of inquiries received by the South African Consulate General A non-exhaustive list of volunteer and internship programs offered by US institutions in Africa is provided below:

AFRICARE INTERNSHIP. South African/Namibian students seeking experience in U.S. private or public sector employee. Contact: South Africa Career Development Internship Program, AFRICARE, 440 R Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20001 (202) 462-3641.

AFRICARE. Recruits employees for a variety of positions in non-profit work. BA/BS, 3 years experience, language proficiency, job specific. Contact: Director of Management Services, AFRICARE, 440 R Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20001 (202) 462-3641.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES. Contact: Recruitment Manager, Catholic Relief Services, 209 West Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD 21201.

COCA COLA COMPANY. Tanzanian, Ugandan or Ethiopian business or engineering graduate students interested in doing a summer internship in their home country, fax a one-page resume to, Contact: Monica Simpson Coca Cola Company Fax 404-676-8214.

COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE. Coordinates workcamps and other activities of voluntary service organizations. College student oriented. Contact: Coordinating Committee for International Volunteer Service, Maison de l'UNESCO 1 rue Miollis 75015 Paris, France (33) 1-45-68-27-31/32.

COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE (CIEE). Work camps in Algeria, Ghana, Morocco, and Tunisia for individuals 18 or older. Proficiency in French is required for projects in francophone Africa. Fee is \$125 for a 2-4 week project, \$200 for a 4-8 week project. Volunteers are responsible for their own transportation. Room and board is provided. CIEE also awards need-based travel scholarships to high school and undergraduate students who are planning to study or volunteer in Africa. Contact: Council on International Educational Exchange, 205 East 42nd Street New York, NY 10017 (212) 661-1414.

EARTHWATCH. Volunteer 2-3 week program for people over age 18 who assist scientists in field research. Currently operating in 9 African countries: Kenya, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Cameroon, Botswana, Tanzania, Namibia, Madagascar and Morocco. Project proposals (2-page outline, dates, budget, and plans for use of volunteers) may also be submitted to the Center

for Field Research. Contact: Earthwatch Headquarters 680 Mt. Auburn Street, P.O. Box 403 Watertown, MA 02272 (617) 926-8200; (800) 776-0188.

FOUNDATION FOR FIELD RESEARCH. Participants assist scientists on research projects worldwide. Current African project is in Mali. Program length varies. Scholarships available. Contact: Foundation for Field Research P.O. Box 2010 Alpine, CA 91903-2010 (619) 445-9264.

GLOBAL VOLUNTEERS. Short-term volunteers live/work in rural village. Contact: 1 (800) 487-1074.

INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS. Work camps in Machakos, Kenya. Contact: ICA 206 East Fourth St., New York, NY 10009 (212) 475-5020.

INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT. Work camp programs currently offered in Mozambique (tree planting) and Angola (street child school) for 12 months, and Namibia. 5-6 months are spent internationally, 6-7 months are spent in preparation and follow-up to the international experience. Fee for 1992 program was \$4,300. Contact: Institute for International Cooperation and Development, P.O. Box 103 Williamstown, MA 01267 (413) 458-9828; (413) 268-9229.

INTERCRISTO. A Christian Placement Network Program designed to match individuals with international Christian work opportunities in their vocational field. Contact: Intercristo 19303 Freemont Ave. North Seattle, WA 98133 (206) 546-7330.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EXCHANGE OF STUDENTS FOR TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE. Foreign on-the-job training opportunities in Lesotho and Sudan for university students in engineering, architecture, agriculture, mathematics and the sciences. Locations vary from year to year. Contact: International Assoc. for Student Exchange for Tech. Experience 10 Corporate Center, Suite 250 10400 Little Patuxent Parkway Columbia, MD 21044-3510 (301) 997-2200.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENTS OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS (AIESEC). International internship program in Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya,

Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia and Zimbabwe for university students affiliated with an AIESEC local chapter who are studying economics or business. Contact: International Assoc. of Students of Economics and Business 841 Broadway #608 New York, NY 10003 (212) 757-3774.

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN YOUTH EXCHANGE (ICYE-US). Exchange program, work camps experience and year-abroad high school study in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone. ICYE provides living arrangements with a host family, in the institution where a volunteer is placed or with other exchanges. Fee covers international travel, administrative expenses, insurance and orientation conference. Contact: ICYE - U.S. National Office, Workcamp-Study Tour Programs, 134 West 26th St., New York, NY 10001 (212) 206-7307 Fax (212) 633-9085.

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE SERVICE CORPS. IESC assigns highly experienced volunteer U.S. executives and technical advisors (most of them recently retired) to requesting organizations according to area of expertise. Contact: International Executive Service Corps, 8 Stamford Forum Stamford, CT 06904-2005 (203) 967-6000.

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION AND SELF-HELP (IFESH). IFESH offers 9-month fellowship field study opportunities for graduate students. Fellows are expected to lend skills and expertise to grassroots, self-help programs and are provided with stipends, living allowances, health insurance and transportation. Academic credit depending on institution. Tuskegee University, the lead institution for the program, is responsible for pre-departure orientations. Countries with programs include Tanzania, Central African Republic, Swaziland, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Niger, Guinea, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Botswana and Zaire. Contact: International Foundation for Education and Self-Help, 5040 East Shea Blvd., Suite 260 Phoenix, AZ 85254-4610 (602) 443-1800.

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE. IVS places individuals with development experience, especially in business, agriculture, health and management. Volunteers receive a monthly stipend, plus living expenses, vacation allowances, transportation and insurance. Assignments are for two years. Contact: Recruitment Director, IVS Inc., Suite 504, 1424 Sixteenth St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 387-5533.

NACEL. Summer Programs in Ivory Coast. Contact: NACEL, Board of Trade Building #528, 301 W. First St., Duluth, MN 55802 (218) 727-8202.

NCSS. Study/Tour to Kenya. Contact: M. Eugene Gilliom, Social Studies and Global Education, College of Education, Ohio State University, 249 Arps Hall, 1945 N. High St.,

Columbus, OH 43210 (614) 292-2575.

NEW/FOURTH WORLD MOVEMENT. The Movement's 2-year volunteers run educational and cultural projects in partnership with disadvantaged communities. Two-month internship in U.S. headquarters is required prior to overseas placement. Contact: NEW/Fourth World Movement 7600 Willow Hill Drive Landover, MD 20785 (301) 336-9489.

OPERATION CROSSROADS AFRICA. Crossroads offers volunteers a chance to meet and work with Africans on 7-week community work camp projects in many African countries, including Uganda, the Gambia, Senegal and Ghana. The cost for 1992 was \$3,000- 3,500; Crossroads will give assistance in raising the money. They also place Black, Hispanic, Native and Asian Americans in professional positions with African development groups. Contact: Operation Crossroads Africa, Attn.: Overseas Department 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 916, New York, NY 10115 (212) 870-2106.

OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT NETWORK. Offers an International Opportunities Clearinghouse--books, regional information packets, and a personalized research service--to help you identify opportunities that correspond with your interests and skills. The Clearinghouse provides information on opportunities with International Volunteer Programs, as well as on arranging individual internships with International Community-Based Organizations or Non-governmental Organizations. For more information, please contact: International Opportunities Coordinator, ODN, 333 Valencia St. Suite 101 San Francisco, CA 94103. Or call 415-431-4204 or e-mail odn@igc.apc.org

PARTNERS FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE. Volunteers make a two year commitment, spending the first working with cooperatives and community groups in a third world country, the second, working with human rights and humanitarian organizations in the U.S. Contact: Partners for Global Justice 4920 Piney Branch Road, NW Washington, D.C. 20011.

PEACE CORPS - U.S. Volunteers work for two years in 90 countries worldwide, including several African countries. Duties vary considerably. Contact: Peace Corps, 1990 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20526 (202) 606-3886.

PEACEWORK. Volunteers from the U.S. and the former Soviet Union work with Habitat for Humanity projects in Ghana. The program's emphasis is on inter-cultural exchange and humanitarian outreach. 3-week projects cost approximately \$2,000. Contact: Peacework 305 Washington Street, SW Blacksburg, VA 24060 (703) 552-2473.

SKILLSHARE AFRICA. Contact: Skillshare Africa, 3 Belvois St., Leicester LE1 681, UK.

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS. Similar to Peace Corps' projects; under United Nations administration. Contact: United Nations Volun-

teers, U.N. Information Center 1889 F Street, NW, Ground Floor Washington, D.C. 20006 (202) 289-8670.

VISIONS IN ACTION. One-year internships in Kenya, Burkina Faso, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Uganda, and Francophone West Africa at African non-profit organizations, development organizations, newspapers, magazines and health clinics. Housing and small stipend provided. Special Urban Development Internships are also available. Applicant is responsible for travel and health insurance. Contact: Visions in Action, 3637 Fulton St., NW Washington, D.C. 20007 (202) 725-7403 or 625-7403.

VISIONS IN ACTION- 1993 Urban Development Internships in Africa. One year internships in Kenya (deadline: April 15, 1993), Uganda (Deadline: June 15, 1993), Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Francophone West Africa or Southern Africa (deadline: April 15, 1993) participating in programs such as journalism, project management, community development, health care, women's and environmental issues, housing and scientific research. For more information, Contact: Visions in Action 3637 Fulton St., NW Washington, D.C. 20007 (202) 625-7403.

VOLUNTEERS FOR PEACE. Casual work experience in camp settings for individuals aged 18 and over. Work camps are 2-3 weeks. Volunteer pays transportation costs and \$100 per work camp. African work camps in Ghana, Morocco and Tunisia. Contact: Volunteers for Peace 43 Tiffany Road Belmont, VT 05730 (802) 259-2759.

VOLUNTEERS IN OVERSEAS COOPERATIVE ASSISTANCE (VOCA). Short-term positions for qualified professionals who provide technical assistance requested by cooperatives, private sector agricultural enterprises and government agencies. No professional fee is given but all expenses are paid. VOCA has assisted projects in many African countries, and currently has major programs in Ghana, Namibia, Tanzania and Uganda. Contact: Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance 50 F Street, NW, Suite 1075 Washington, D.C. 20001 (202) 626-8750.

VOLUNTEERS IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (VITA). Technical assistance and information program, and mobilization of short-term consultants for development services. Maintains file of resumes of consultants for use by development agencies. Contact: Volunteers in Technical Assistance 1815 North Lynn Street Arlington, VA 22209 (703) 276-1800.

YMCA INTERNATIONAL CAMP COUNSELOR PROGRAM. Volunteers aged 20-30 with counseling and/or camping experience are placed worldwide in children's camps. \$125 application fee. Contact: YMCA International Camp Counselor Program, 356 West 34th Street, 3rd floor New York, NY 10001 (212) 563-3441.

*Government has increased funds for AIDs work
(Continued from page 4)*

- rural provinces;
- Special funding to attract professionals with scarce skills into the public sector – and keep them there, and
- Special funding to encourage doctors and other professionals to work in remote areas.

The commission calls for a plan for universal access to antiretroviral drugs and in this regard differs from current Government policy.

Anti-retroviral are presently available in the public sector only for PMTCT and for preventive use after sexual assault or injury on the job in relation to health workers.

However, a year ago, Cabinet recognized that ARV treatment correctly administered had value in prolonging life and improving health in the face of AIDs. It further gave a commitment to work to address some of the obstacles to such treatment, including cost considerations.

To appreciate the full resource demand, the Government created a joint task team to investigate the costs and health benefits of various forms of AIDs treatment, including ARV therapy.

The task team's deadline is the end of this month and it appears that they are on course to hand the report to the ministers of Health and Finance by month end. The two ministers will in the period thereafter, steer the report to relevant decision-making structures.

It is not possible to foresee what the decision of our leaders will be. But the issues of access to ARVs will certainly be seriously considered, weighing the considerable costs and likely benefits of such an intervention against other critical Government priorities – and ensuring that the approach adopted will be sustainable over the years ahead.

The writer is the director-general of the Department of Health.

*Briefing by Deputy Minister Aziz Pahad
(Continued from page 2)*

The meetings will also deal with the conflicts on the continent - the DRC, Burundi, Ivory Coast, Sudan.

Social and economic issues will also be focused on.

The Summit will also discuss operationalisation matters decided during the Chairmanship of South Africa.

On Tuesday, 1 July 2003 I will participate in a SADC Review Committee - since sub-regional groupings contribute to the success of

the AU, it is important that the SADC region determine how it can contribute to this process.

If SADC cannot work, as it should, our contribution to NEPAD and the AU will be flawed.

Incoming visit by US President George Bush

You will all admit that this has been a year of hectic diplomacy. Heads of State/Ministerial delegations pay very quick visits to countries to discuss issues of concern. President Bush will be accompanied by his security adviser, Condoleezza Rice and the Undersecretary for African Affairs (my counterpart), Walter Kansteiner. We welcome this visit because we believe that it illustrates the commitment by the US as a major power in the world, to the development of Africa - we believe this visit mirrors the commitment of the developed world and indeed the G-8 to the development of Africa. Africa has always expressed concern about our marginalization. This visit will go a long way to tackling this issue. This visit will provide us with an opportunity to discuss many bilateral and economic issues

Trade relations in the year 2001 amounted to US\$ 7.2 billion - with a very healthy surplus in South Africa's favor. However this represents only 0.4% of total imports into the US which suggests that there is room for this relationship to be expanded upon. In addition, the US remains the largest FDI contributor to SA since 1994; over 900 US companies function in SA which employ approximately 125,000 people; tourism has increased and can be further exploited.

In terms of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) South Africa has benefited from this policy. Negotiations are ongoing regarding the SACU-US Free Trade Agreement - this will be high on the agenda during this visit. Analysts have said that by the year 2010 the US would like to import 20% of its oil from Africa. I must say that South Africa is very pleased with the development program of the US - the US\$600 million per year is used to fund NGOs and programs that promote democracy, good governance, education, etc. There will be much to discuss in terms of economic relations between both countries.

Since NEPAD is an overarching program, discuss the expansion of relations in terms of NEPAD. We also hope that following Evian, the G-8 implementation program, in terms of NEPAD, will be discussed.

Politically we will have an opportunity to gain an understanding from the US re: the post-Saddam Iraq. Resolution 1483 is fundamentally important to the region and the world - we will also discuss the realities of this resolution.

We will also discuss the Palestinian -Israeli issue since President Bush has committed himself to the resolution of this conflict through the implementation of the Roadmap. The resolution of this issue is fundamental to the resolution of major issues in the region. We will discuss how interaction through multilateral structures can contribute to the resolution of global challenges.

The US has contributed US\$15 billion to tackle HIV/Aids in Africa. We will also discuss all the conflict situations on the Continent, including Zimbabwe although it is not a conflict area. Regarding Zimbabwe we will try and conceptualize an approach to the situation which takes into account African initiatives.

The US is keen to build upon Africa's peace-keeping force - in this regard the establishment of the peace and security council will be discussed in detail.

Since this is the second visit to SA by a US Head of State in a short time, there is an indication that Africa has been placed high on the agenda of the US. Let me reiterate that although media reports otherwise, there are no serious problems in our bilateral issues - we differ on technical issues towards solving situations but there are no seriously diverging views by both countries.

Questions & Answers

Question: What is South Africa's response genetically modified crops?

Answer: There are differing opinions in Africa in this regard. We in SA have no principle opposition to the issue. However, this will be an issue to be discussed at the WTO Cancun meeting. Other issues that will also be discussed will be that of agricultural subsidies, market access, cheaper medication.

Question: Deputy Minister, were you unhappy regarding former President Mandela's remarks that he would not meet with President Bush.

Answer: No, I was not. Madiba is one of the greatest statesmen of the world - since his release from prison he has always voiced his opinion and raised his concerns. These were his own statements and these illustrate and bear testimony to this greatness - that he is able to voice his views. We must remember that former President Mandela has also often criticized this present government.

Question: Deputy Minister, can you discuss the timing of this visit - were consultations held to determine a mutually agreeable date?

Could you also mention what is the view of the protests/demonstrations that will be held?

Answer: As you will remember, the visit was initially scheduled for January but had to be postponed due to the situation in Iraq - we have since then remained in constant touch re: the rescheduling of the visit. The visit has been scheduled during the only times available in the diaries of both President Mbeki and President Bush. Regarding the planned demonstrations - demonstrations are held against the government of SA on a regular basis. To demonstrate remains the legitimate right of South Africans - however these must be held within the rule of the law.

Question: Deputy Minister, you say there are no fundamental problems between the US and SA, but not long ago, President Mbeki led the anti-war protests. In addition, Secretary of State, Colin Powell in an interview in the New York Times seemed to indicate fundamental differences in the approach of both governments to Zimbabwe.

Answer: President Mbeki articulated the position of SA, as the only country that had voluntarily destroyed its nuclear arsenal, that weapons of mass destruction should be destroyed. We strongly advocated though that this be done within the context of the UNSC. We would also have liked the inspectors to continue with their work and be given more time. However, this is now water under the bridge since Resolution 1483 has allowed the establishment of an interim government in Iraq. We would like to discuss how we can support this resolution since the situation in Iraq is daily becoming more volatile - we would like to have a full brief from the Americans in this regard. Our reading tells us that this is the beginning of a long-term volatile situation in Iraq. Iraq impacts on many situations and we must attempt to identify the way forward. Stability can only be ensured if: Territorial integrity is ensured and maintained; Self-determination of the Iraqi people is encouraged; and Iraqis are allowed to control their natural resources. Regarding Zimbabwe: since Walter Kansteiner will be here, we hope that an opportunity will be provided to explain the position of Africa in this instance. Let me reiterate what we have been saying: Zimbabweans must find their own solutions - Africa and the international community can only assist the Zimbabweans.

Question: South Africa has offered to host the Pan-African Parliament (PAP). Is SA

confident of its ability to host this body?

Answer: The decision taken is that for the first few years following the operationalisation of the African Union, the PAP will be hosted on a rotational basis by each region. SA will try to determine how to assist in the set-up of the PAP. Our proposal to host the PAP does not mean this will be accepted. The ratification by 21 countries is required; 6 have done so already. This may be finalized in Maputo.

Question: Is it true that SA is not happy with the performance of Amara Essy?

Answer: No, this is not true. The government of SA will consider all those being proposed for the positions of Chair of the Commission. Cabinet has been tasked with decision. In addition, Mr Essy has fulfilled the mandate with which he was tasked - ie. to operationalise the AU. This process will be continued during Chairmanship of Mozambique.

Question: Are the positions of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Commission full time position? If so, is Minister Dlamini Zuma being proposed for either position?

Answer: No, the Minister is not being proposed. In addition, SA has not proposed a candidate. For the position of Chair, former President Konare of Mali and Amara Essy are being suggested. For the position of Deputy Chair, there is a Rwandese and Zambian candidate.

Question: Is South Africa as the current chair of the AU confident that Mozambique will be able to maintain and sustain the momentum created during this year?

Answer: There is a great renewed commitment to functioning of the AU. We hope that President Chissano and his government will be able to sustain the momentum created by South Africa.

Question: Can you confirm that former President Mandela will meet with President Bush?

Answer: A request for such a meeting has not been received by the Department. In addition, former President Mandela will be out of the country as indicated by his office this morning.

Question: Deputy Minister, can you provide an update of the situation in the DRC?

Answer: The UNSC has mobilized a special force, with Chapter 7 powers, to the Ituri region. The French have deployed troops to the region under a request from the United Nations. South Africa will also contribute troops to this mission. Regarding the political processes in the DRC - a timetable has been established. The matter outstanding is who will take responsibility for the

armed forces - we hope for the speedy resolution to this matter since the Congolese have, for the first time since Patrice Lubumba, been provided with an opportunity to manage their own country. The DRC experiences a complex situation unlike any other in the world - and much international assistance will be required. We are keen that the Congolese must determine their own future. Since the issue remains unresolved, planned for tomorrow of the control of the armed forces the installation of the government has been delayed.

Question: Since the peace and security council has been ratified by only 6 of 53 countries, what is it that President Mbeki hopes to achieve from his meeting with President Bush? How will President Mbeki assure President Bush of the continent's commitment to achieving peace, security and stability?

Answer: There are many reasons why the process ratification is so slow in Africa. Although the US is involved in many conflicts on the Continent, there must be an understanding that SA will push for ratification, but we must appreciate some of the problems. The G-8 has taken a collective and individual decision to support the capacity of Africa to deal with conflicts on the Continent. Following the implementation committee meeting in Abuja, there is a growing acceptance that Africa must fund its own institutions - we must illustrate our commitment to our own development.

Question: Deputy Minister, would you agree that President Bush visiting Africa just for oil and terror?

Answer: This is too simplistic a view. There is a greater understanding that Africa important to US foreign policy - this is indicated.

AGOA, the US-SACU FTA, etc.

These policies illustrate that Africa is a continent with great potential. There have been many high level visits to SA by many leaders in the last few years. Again this illustrates that Africa is increasingly being supported by the developed countries. South Africa remains committed to combating terrorism especially since there is a growing perception that Africa is emerging as a base from which terrorism can be undertaken, that some of our countries have supported terrorist attacks. Our own view is that terrorism cannot be defeated militarily - the root causes must be dealt with. In this regard the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is fundamental. There is also the difficulty that there is no consensus on the definition of terrorism within the UN - there are many countries which define that the fight for self-determination cannot be defined as terrorism.

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