



South Africa @work

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Season's Greetings from the Staff of the South African Consulate General in New York City!

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President Mbeki's Address to the 56th United Nations General Assembly Session

Mr. President, please accept my congratulations to you on your assumption of the stewardship of this important Assembly.

We would also wish to congratulate your predecessor, Mr. Harri Holkeri, for the skilful manner in which he guided the work of the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations.

Allow me also to salute the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, on being elected to a second term, and together with the United Nations being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2001.

This is because of the tireless work both of the Secretary-General and the United Nations to realize the ideal that we all cherish: a world in which all people can live in peace, security, freedom, equality, and justice.

Mr. President

As has already been noted and as we all know, this General Debate has begun later than usual. The reason for this is because two months ago, the forces of terror struck at this city, New York, the Headquarters of this Organization as well as Washington DC, the capital city of the United States of America.

It is proper that we take advantage of this occasion once more to convey our condolences and deepest sympathy to the people and government of the United States at the immense loss of life and property imposed on them through a callous act of murder. We extend the same sympathy to all other peoples who lost their citizens as a result of the colossal outrage of September 11.

We speak here about the terrible

tragedy of September 11 on behalf of our government and the people of South Africa. We speak also on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Commonwealth.

There can be no doubt but that the peoples of the world have to unite in action to defeat terrorism. There can be no hesitation among any of us in the resolve to work together to ensure that those responsible for the heinous actions of September 11 are brought to justice.

This is so not only because many nations lost their citizens on that terrible day, important as this is. It is so because terrorism has demonstrated that it has no respect for borders. It has shown in a very graphic, tragic and painful manner, as it did also in Kenya

(Continued on page 2)

Minister Manuel's Address to the National Assembly

Adjustments Appropriation Bill and the 2001 Medium Term Budget Policy

South Africans could look forward to tax cuts in next February's budget, according to Finance Minister Trevor Manuel, thanks to "robust" growth in tax collection and continued good corporate finances. Unveiling the medium-term budget policy statement to parliament, Manuel said a "moderate easing" of the tax burden would continue, particularly for lower- and middle-income earners. Tax breaks would be given for strategic investments and wage incentives to create jobs. Confirming market speculation, Manuel said Telkom's listing would be delayed until next April. "Preparatory work for Telkom's

initial public share offer is well advanced," he said, but market conditions were unattractive. He said proceeds of the privatization had been shifted to the 2002/03 fiscal year. Whole only R15 billion had been penciled in for budget purposes, Manuel and his team were confident this total would be exceeded.

Key Features:

- ? Accelerated real spending on infrastructure and social services
- ? Inflation targets to be kept in place until 2005
- ? R600 million to deal with

Unemployment Insurance shortfall

- ? R950 million for electrification program
- ? Continued tax relief for middle- to low-income earners
- ? Strategic investment incentives of R3 billion over four years, mainly to encourage investment in manufacturing
- ? Ongoing discussions with banks on their low effective tax rates and possible court cases for cases not settled yet
- ? Review of taxation of retirement fund savings to encourage savings and ensure

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President Mbeki's Speech

(continued from page 1)

and Tanzania, that our very humanity renders all of us, without exception, into potential targets of cold-blooded murder.

Where we might have used the concept of a global village loosely in the past, on September 11 terrorism taught us the abiding lesson that we do indeed belong to a global village. None within this village will be safe unless all the villagers act together to secure and guarantee that safety. All must act to promote the safety and security of one and all on the basis of a shared responsibility born of a shared danger.

Accordingly, we have no choice but to get together in the village square to agree on the threat that confronts us all. Together, in that village square, we have to determine what we do about this commonly defined threat. This is the ineluctable conclusion we must draw from the terrorist attacks of September 11.

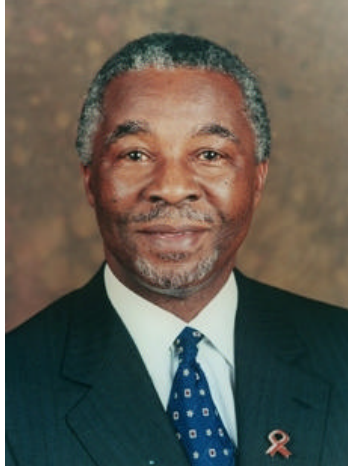
To guarantee world peace and security in the light of the threat posed by terrorism requires that this Organization, the United Nations, must discharge its responsibility to unite the peoples of the world to adopt an International Convention against Terrorism.

Necessarily, all of us must experience a shared sense of ownership of this Convention, precisely because the Convention would not merely be a statement of principles, but a set of injunctions or prescriptions that will be binding on all of us as states. Thus should each one of us be ready to integrate our respective sovereignties within a global human sovereignty defined and governed by all of us, with none treated as superior and another inferior.

The challenge to unite the peoples of the world to fight the common threat of terrorism brings to the fore the need to speed up the transformation of the United Nations so that it is able to respond to the global challenges we face together, in an equitable manner. This means that it needs to be efficient, effective and responsive to the needs of humanity as a whole.

September 11 emphasized the point that even as the democratic system of government is being consolidated throughout the world, even as we all work to sustain the possibility of a serious and meaningful global dialogue, there are some who are prepared to resort to force in pursuit of their goals.

Clearly, there must be a response. But what



should that response be?

Immediately, it is correct that we must achieve global security cooperation so that the perpetrators of the September 11 acts of terrorism are apprehended and punished.

Correctly, the Government of the United States has emphasized that all action that is carried out must be clearly targeted against the terrorists.

It has stated that such actions, including military actions, should not

degenerate into collective punishment against any people on any grounds whatsoever, including those of religion, race or ethnicity. Accordingly, it is necessary that humanitarian assistance should be extended to the people of Afghanistan. We fully agree with the approach.

The US Government has also said that these actions should be of the shortest duration possible, consistent with the objective that must be achieved. Again, we agree with this without reservation.

The call has gone out that all governments and countries should contribute whatever they can to ensure that the common effort to find and punish the terrorists responsible for September 11 meet their just deserts. We have responded positively to this call because it is timely, correct and just.

All these are important elements of what has to be done to respond to those who committed the mass murders of September 11.

But they also indicate the way forward as we consider the rules that should guide us as we confront the threat of terrorism over the longer term and beyond the critically important operations and activities focused on the events of September 11.

They put the matter firmly on our common agenda that we must also achieve global cooperation for the speedy resolution of conflict situations everywhere in the world.

In this regard, it is clear that the situation in the Middle East cries out for an urgent and lasting solution. In this context, we might recall the words of the Irish poet, William Butler Yeats, when he said "too long a sacrifice can make a stone of the heart"

The sacrifice of the Palestinian people should not be allowed to drag on any longer. Whatever these long-suffering people might themselves think and feel, it is clear that there are some in the world who will justify their destructive rage by claiming to be frontline fight-

ers for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Beyond this, we must act together to determine the issues that drive people to resort to force and agree on what we should do to eliminate these. At the same time, we must make the point patently clear that such determination does not in any way constitute an attempt to justify terrorism. Together we must take the firm position that no circumstances whatsoever can ever justify resort to terrorism.

The need to realize the goal of determining the matters that make for peace, together, once again underlines the need for properly representative international institutions to build the necessary global consensus.

It would seem obvious that the fundamental source of conflict in the world today is the socio-economic deprivation of billions of people across the globe, co-existing side-by-side with islands of enormous wealth and prosperity within and among countries. This necessarily breeds a deep sense of injustice, social alienation, despair and a willingness to sacrifice their lives among those who feel they have nothing to lose and everything to gain, regardless of the form of action to which they resort.

As the Durban World Conference concluded, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance remain a critical part of the practices that serve to alienate billions of people and contribute to mutual antagonisms among human beings. The international community should spare no effort to ensure that this affront to human dignity is totally eradicated.

Last year, we convened in this very hall in the historic Millennium Summit. Solemnly, and with serious intent, we adopted the Millennium Declaration. The heavy and urgent obligation we now face is to implement the program of action spelt out in that Declaration.

This constitutes and must constitute the decisive front of struggle against terrorism.

Africa for its part has developed a New Partnership for Africa's Development, which is a product of the consciousness among the African people that they, themselves, hold the key to the continent's development, security and stability.

Africans across the continent have arrived at the correct determination that human rights, democracy, peace, stability and justice are the fundamental building blocks for a prosperous continent. Concomitantly, African countries are taking measures, jointly and severally, to improve the conditions for the much-needed investment, economic renewal and development. Naturally, the United Nations has a pivotal role to play in this regard.

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Minister Manuel's Speech

(continued from page 2)

As we meet here members of the WTO are engaged in critical negotiations in Doha, Qatar, hopefully to agree to a new equitable trading relationship that is fair and just. It is imperative that there is a non-discriminatory and equitable trading system that promotes sustainable development.

Soon, the Ministers of Health, the WHO and others concerned will be finalizing the details relating to the Global Health Fund to deal with the major communicable diseases, including Malaria, Tuberculosis and AIDS.

The Financing for Development Conference to be held next March in Mexico will cover a range of pertinent issues such as debt relief, official development assistance, and foreign direct investment. As we all know, substantial capital flows into the developing countries are critical in the struggle to defeat poverty and underdevelopment.

All these constitute vital component parts of what must inform the outcome of the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2002. We are confident that the Summit will reach positive conclusions that will include firm global, regional and national commitments to the elaboration, integration and implementation of economically efficient, socially responsible and environmentally sound development policies.

Mr. President,

There is no doubt that our global village has the resources and capacity to meet the needs of all its citizens. What is needed is the collective will of the international community to act decisively to meet this challenge, inspired by a sense of human solidarity.

Peace and security for all, freedom and democracy for all, prosperity for all and genuine equality in conditions of diversity must surely be the outcomes towards which the United Nations and all of us must strive. Our actions must affirm the seriousness of our intent.

Thank you.

- ? **Ag Shame**—oh sweet/oh cute/exclamation of sympathy
- ? **Ja**—yes/ok
- ? **Indaba**—issue/problem/tribal conference
- ? **Shot**—an alcoholic drink
- ? **Dop**—an alcoholic drink/ a tot
- ? **Klippias and coke**—brandy and coke
- ? **Cable car**—tramway
- ? **Aikona**—no way
- ? **Gerkins**—pickles
- ? **Bra/bru**—male friend

The family of "The Lion" have woken up international music industry

When South African musician Linda Solomon and his group the Evening Birds recorded his song Mbube (The Lion) in 1939 he had no idea that it would capture the imagination of the world for generations to come or that it would become the centre of one of the music industry's most bitter royalty claims.

Mbube has made tens of millions of dollars for that artists that have either covered or plagiarized it over the years and across the world, Solomon himself earned only 10 shillings from the rights to the song, which he sold to the owner of Southern Africa's only recording facility in the 30's, Gallo Records. Mbube went on to make history by becoming the first South African record to sell more than 100,000 copies.

But Solomon, who worked as a packer for Gallo after selling his song to its founder, was not destined to benefit from its success and he died almost penniless in 1962, eleven years after American folksinger Pete Seeger and the Weavers released a direct copy of Mbube in the US under the title Wimoweh, and just one year after the pop group The Tokens released a version entitled The Lion Sleeps Tonight. The Tokens hit the right note with The Lions Sleep Tonight and the song rushed to Number 1 position on charts around the world.

Since 1961, the song has become part of the collective culture of the world's nations, with children worldwide learning the words at nursery and primary schools. When Disney released the film "The Lion King" in 1994 with

the song on its soundtrack, The K Sleeps Tonight ascended the world's charts yet again.

Over the past 50 years about 170 cover versions of Mbube have been recorded and it has appeared in at least 15 films, making it the most famous tune to come out of Africa. But for Solomon and his family the song's sweet success has left a bitter taste.

Ranked as one of the top 10 most-loved golden oldies of all times, the song's successes represent about US\$415 million (R130 million) in songwriter royalties and associated revenues—almost none of which made its way back to Solomon.

It has taken half a century for Solomon's story to make the headlines but it looks as if the injustice is about to be corrected.

Not only are his heirs seemingly making progress in their claim for 100% of the songwriting royalties for all three versions of Mbube, but Gallo Music Group and Musica, one of South Africa's prominent music retail chain, have paid tribute to him by re-releasing a CD containing the original recording of Mbube plus four cover versions.

All profits from CD sales will go directly to Linda's family through the Solomon Linda Trust Fund. The CD, which was launched in August this year can be purchased online at www.musicaco.za

South Africanisms Continued

(Continued from page 1)

- ? **Biltong**—jerky
- ? **Howzit**—hello/hi/how are you
- ? **Voetsek**—take a hike
- ? **Ja-nee**—perhaps/maybe/we'll see
- ? **One clip**—\$1,000.00
- ? **Pot plant**—indoor plant
- ? **Yisslike**—exclamation of surprise
- ? **Mampara**—an idiot/fool
- ? **Gem Squash**—type of squash
- ? **Kwaito**—a form of local young hip music

- equity
- ? Periodic review of corporate taxes
- ? Regional tax coordination to be stepped up
- ? Budget deficit of 2.3% of GDP this year; rising to to 2.6% in 2002/03 before falling to 2.2% in 2004/05
- ? Government dissaving to fall to zero by 2003 as spending shifts further to capital expenditure
- ? Telkom listing and sale of M-Cell shares not expected this year so privatization proceeds only expected to be R3 billion mainly from sale of SASRIA. Fiscal slack to be taken up by R12 billion syndicated loan.
- ? The net open forward position to the Reserve Bank was expected to be completely eliminated in 2002 as the bank would buy dollars coming into the country through privatization and the government's foreign borrowing.

Tourism in the Eastern Cape

The Eastern Cape is a ripe bud in South Africa's tourism industry, poised to blossom into one of the country's premier holiday destinations.

Far from attracting only South Africans, the province, and its three main tourism nodes, Port Elizabeth, East London and the Transkei areas have been drawing an ever increasing number of foreign visitors.

With attractions ranging wild coastal areas, deserts, bush veldt vegetation, rugged ocean lines and natural forests, tourism revenue in the province is estimated to be far in excess of R4 billion per annum.

The coastal regions and their regions and their resorts continue to attract out of province visitors during the traditional holiday periods, while international tourists seek out environmental attractions such as game reserves and whale watching.

The Eastern Cape is currently the fifth most popular holiday destination for foreign tourists and the third most popular with domestic tourists.

With a heavy focus on eco-tourism, a number of exciting initiatives are being implemented across the province as the untapped potential is acknowledged through significant national and international investments.

A multimillion-rand focus on eco-tourism, which will position the Greater Addo Elephant Park as the third-largest conservation area in South Africa is well on track and is expected to increase the tourist pull to the region.

This National Park with six biomes in its 400,000 hectare are is unique in the world. The diversity of the wildlife that these biomes can support is expected to become a major drawcard for the area. The park will house the "big seven" - elephant, rhino, buffalo, leopard, whale and the great white sharks—all in their own habitats.

Not far from Addo is the award-winning Shamwari Game Reserve, which continues to lure foreign tourists, affluent locals and even celebrities.

The reserve's involvement in game rehabilitation has also assisted in positioning the park on the world environmental map.

Ecotourism is growing internationally at a rate of 10% per annum compared to the 4% growth for tourism overall.

The number and variety of accommodation establishments have increased dramatically since 1997 when the proposal for the Greater Addo National Park was first laid on the ta-

ble. Brian Jackson of Eastern Cape Tourism said that there is no question that the Greater Addo Elephant Park has definitely put the Eastern Cape on the world tourism maps. He estimates that more than 35 new accommodation establishments have been created as a direct result of the parks appeal.

Fundisile Mketeni, ex-Park manager reported that tourist figures rose almost 50% from the 74,000 in 1995/1996 to over 110,000 in 1999/2000. Mketeni estimates that once the park is fully established, more than 600 direct jobs will be created.

Over the past few years, Game Hunting in the Eastern Cape has taken off and now represents an important sector in the areas tourism lure. At present, the game industry is bringing R200 million per annum and indicators show that this figure should increase over the next couple of years. A study conducted by the University of Port Elizabeth showed that biltong and trophy hunting played an enormous role in the success of this sector. Of the R200 million generated by this sector, R90 million can be attributed to both the biltong and trophy hunting sector with the remaining R20 million being attributed to the slaie of wild animals.

Sun International's R533 million Boardwalk Casino and Entertainment World, is to date, the largest single investment ever made in the province's tourism sector. According to Peter Bacon, MD of Sun International SA, the Boardwalk is a unique and greatly needed catalyst for the Port Elizabeth beachfront and for the development of the city as an internationally competitive tourism center.

The Eastern Cape, and Port Elizabeth in particular is also growing as a conference venue with the target market being the national conference industry. The variety of conference venues in the city continues to grow with the Havelock Conference Center and the Feather Market Hall in Central, the Seaview Hotel, Intaba Lodge Mountain Resort, and The Boardwalk Casino's conferencing division. The Port Elizabeth Technikon, University of Port Elizabeth, East Cape Training Center and the Eastern Province Crickets Board all boast conference facilities.

A number of festivals, exhibitions and special events are organized on an annual basis in the Eastern Cape including the Addo Rose Show, the Grahamstown Arts Festival, the Shell Festival and international Billabong Pro Surfing Championships in Jeffreys Bay and the Lifestyle Expo. The Portnet Harbor Festival in Port Elizabeth, which attracted well over 30,000 spectators in 2000 and the Splash Festival, also in the Friendly city, play a pivotal role in attract-

ing people to the area.

Farmstays and agri-tourism in the Eastern Cape are far from reaching their full potential. However, the Steytlerville Agri-Carnival's related projects include the development of a tourism route along the Karoo Coastal Mountain ranges which connects to Addo, the Baviaanskloof Wilderness, the Little Karoo wine route and the whale watching areas on the Garden Route. The road takes visitors through mohair and ostrich farmlands as well as the internationally famous "living desert" of the Great Karoo.

Tourism in Port Elizabeth, which manages certain conference facilities in the city said that last year, over 40 national conferences or launches involving a smaller portion of international delegates were hosted in Port Elizabeth.

Culture and heritage are also of great importance in the Eastern Cape, the variety and diversity of these operations are so large that it is impossible to cover all aspects of this tourism niche. The area has a rich heritage bestowed upon it by the Koisan, Xhosa, Dutch, British and German's.

Numerous City Tours, Township and Shebeen Tours and even diving tours to one of 400 shipwrecks in and around Port Elizabeth are carried out in the city. The famous narrow-gauge steam train, the Apple Express offers one-day excursions while Bayworld with its associated museum and tropical house also lure hundreds of visitors a year.

All the major car hire companies have a presence in the Nelson Mandela Metro. There are also homegrown brands such as Economic Car Hire, which operate in the area. A number of local and national tour and bus operators are based in the area.

Sports Events, and particularly events of international importance, generate welcome spend while providing the city with much needed exposure. Port Elizabeth has two internationally recognized stadiums, St. George's Cricket Grounds and Telkom Park Rugby Stadium as well as numerous other sporting facilities including four gold courses. The St. George's Park stadium will host a World Cup semi-final match next year.

It is generally believes that 20% of tourism revenues is generated directly through sports events.

There are a number of arts and crafts venues in Port Elizabeth including St. George's Art Gallery, the Ron Belling Museum and the Bayworld Museum. A boost for the art and craft sector is Art in the Park, which takes place in St. George's Park on the first Sunday of every month.

Moody's Upgrades South Africa's Local Currency Bond Rating from Baa1 to A2

Following a due diligence process in South Africa, Moody's, the international rating agency has today upgraded South Africa's long term foreign currency debt rating by one notch from Baa3 to Baa2-. The country ceiling for foreign currency bank deposits was upgraded by two notches from Baa3 to Baa2. The sovereign's long term local currency (Rand) debt rating has been upgraded by three notches from Baa1 to A2.

In addition, the sovereign's ability to repay debts has been upgraded by two notches from not prime (i.e. may be unable to repay) to Prime 2 (i.e. strong ability to repay debt). This represents confidence in the ability of the Republic of South Africa to repay its debt obligations in the face of rampant emerging market defaults and global volatility.

This is a sounding vote of confidence in our economy. This investment rating means that South Africa can attract more investors who are currently buying only investment grade rated debt. It would also contribute to the lowering of the borrowing costs for the government and other South African issuers.

The resilience of the South African economy in the face of global slowdown post 1998 provided support for this improved confidence. After following a prudent macroeconomic strategy for the last five years, the National Treasury is confident that the time has come for the fruits of our toil to be enjoyed. We are now, like never before, in a better position to seize the moment and provide a better life for all.

Amongst others, Moody's cited South Africa's strength as being:

- ? The consolidation of public sector finances and the debt dynamics.
- ? Stronger foreign liquidity and exports
- ? South African Reserve Bank's willingness to allow the exchange rate to float; and
- ? The ever liquid domestic capital market and a robust and well regulated banking sector.
- ? Moody's is however, still concerned about the country's unemployment and socio-economic divides that have contributed to crime rate and the incidence of HIV infection.

The Government is aware of the challenges facing South Africa and is confident that the necessary structural reforms are in place to ensure an acceleration in social delivery.

For further information, please contact:
National Treasury Tel: 011 27 12 315-5056

From the Desk of the Consul General

Dear Reader,

We have come to the end of yet another year, a year New York, the USA and the world will never forget. As we reel from the impact of the 11 September attack, the future remains uncertain, but we remain optimistic and confident that relations between our countries will only get stronger as we forge ahead with the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act

(AGOA) that will turn the tide for growth and development in Africa in the 21st century. We remain resolved to eliminate poverty and disease and put South Africa on a growth path in a partnership involving government as well as private and public institutions.

The immediate challenge is the economic slowdown. With the US economy now officially in recession, the impact on our economy has been mixed.

On the economic side, South Africa has in spite of the global situation and with a currency under tremendous pressure, reason for optimism:

- ? Trade with the US is growing; From the 1600 products we could export, that number has now tripled giving South Africa the potential to export almost unlimited to the US market.
- ? Moody's has recently upgraded South Africa's long term foreign currency debt rating and the long term local currency (Rand) debt rating;
- ? Inflation remains under control, now standing at 6.8% down from the double digits of some 14.7% just a few (five) years ago.
- ? As expected our economic growth is feeling the pinch from the global situation, but we still had 1.2% growth in the third quarter (July – September), after first quarter growth of 1.2% and second quarter growth of 1.8%, promising positive growth for the last quarter of 2001.



Reasons mentioned for Moody's upgrading were:

- ? Stronger foreign liquidity and exports;
- ? The Reserve (Central) Bank's willingness to allow the exchange rate to float; and
- ? The ever liquid domestic capital market and robust and well regulated banking sector.

Around social development, we remain challenged by the scourge of AIDS and we have no doubts that we shall succeed with the adopted policies and strategies to roll out services to all areas where our people require preventative as well as curative care.

At the political level 2001 has had very significant milestones for Africa. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is becoming a reality and is moving at an encouraging pace. Two positive developments in Africa this year were the replacement of the Organization of African Unity with the African Union, and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). President Mbeki played a leading role in developing NEPAD. NEPAD (initially known as the Millennium Africa Recovery Program – MAP) is a "product of the consciousness among the African people that they, themselves hold the key to the continent's development, security and stability". (See President Mbeki's speech).

On this note I would like to wish you all a happy holiday season and the best of luck for 2002.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to South Africa during the past year. Hope to see you all next year, either in person, through our newsletter, or through our website: www.southafrica-newyork.net. (Remember that through our website you have access to different newsmidia for the latest news in South Africa.)

Regards,

Thami Ngwevela

Highlights from the South African Media

South Africa Leads World with Rapid X-rays

South African experts have made a significant breakthrough in one of the most difficult fields of medicine – radiology. In a world first, a digital, low-dosage x-ray diagnostic imaging system was launched in Johannesburg. Known as the Lodox system it will be showcased to the world this weekend in Chicago, and is expected to put South Africa on the world medical imaging map like never before. A prototype has already been installed at Groote Schuur. According to Dr Friedland, taking x-rays in a trauma unit if often very difficult and time-consuming. This was also the view of Dr. Ken Boffard, head of trauma at the Johannesburg Hospital, who said at least 20% of injuries are not diagnosed when a patient arrives at a trauma unit while another 20% of injuries are misdiagnosed. The Lodox system, designed by a commercial/technical division of De Beers, meets three essential requirements – low dose x-ray dosage, high accuracy and rapidity. “It is extremely fast, scanning the whole body in approximately 13 seconds.” (Citizen, November 21)

South African Technology Ensures Fuel Efficient Relaunch for Concorde

Thanks to Western Cape company, Aerodyne Aviation Technology, the Concorde aircraft is considerably more fuel-efficient following its relaunch in October. The South African company supplied the carbon fiber components of the Concorde’s new “bucket seats”. These new seats, made from strong but lightweight carbon fiber, are part of the extensive refurbishment of the interior of the aircraft. They are 20% lighter than the old seats, and will result in a saving of R10 million a year in fuel costs. In a world first, Aerodyne also supplied the Concorde with carbon fiber tray tables. The South African company is one of the world’s largest providers of composite parts for aircraft seats, and for example supplies components for British Airways’ twenty first century Club World Seat, a fully flat bed. Aerodyne is, thus, firmly established as a high-technology design manufacturing company of international repute, specializing in high-performance products made from composite materials for the aerospace, medical, sport and industrial markets.

Weak Rand Boosts Export Markets

The Department of Trade and Industry announced yesterday that South Africa had attracted foreign direct investment commitments totaling R4 billion in the six months to October this year. The Department said that the recent sharp fall of the rand has prompted it to urge

South African companies to seek out and exploit export opportunities to boost the economy. Trade and Industry chief operating officer Portia Molefe said that the plummeting rand boosted the impact of every other export factor, including the recent trade agreements with the European Union, the United States and the Southern African Development Community.

South African Exports Thrive in Dickey Times

Diamonds and the African Growth and Opportunity Act kept South Africa’s exports to the US on their upward trajectory in the first three quarters, even as the US market for South African steel contracted sharply, the latest commerce department data shows. To the end of September, the value of goods entering the US from South Africa reached \$3.47billion, a 10.5% improvement on last year’s record performance over the same period. Imports from the US, helped by Boeing orders, grew 6.7% to \$2.21billion. South Africa’s trade surplus with the US, nevertheless, widened 18.1%, period on period, to \$1.25 billion. September the month of the World Trade Center bombings, was not, by recent standards, a banner month for South African exports to the US. They slowed to \$327 million from \$402 million a year earlier. How much of this decline was attributable to the attacks is unclear since most of the goods would have been ordered and on their way by September 11. (Business Day, November 26)

Welcome to South Africa, Cheapest Country in the World

The latest fall in the rand means that South Africa has become the first country in the world where a Big Mac hamburger cost less than a United States dollar, an economist said here. Tradek economist Mike Schussler said a Big Mac cost R9.95 – while the exchange rate against dollar was R9.97. “Along with this we have also just become the cheapest country in the world, according to the Big Mac index,” Schussler said. The Big Mac index is an unofficial, global barometer that uses the ubiquitous McDonald’s product to measure the purchasing power of the currencies of countries around the world. “In fact we are just over 13 percent cheaper than the second cheapest country on the list – the Philippines – and 20 percent cheaper than China”, he said. Schussler said Big Macs in South Africa cost 40 percent less than the same product in the US. “This shows that the internal purchasing power of the rand is holding up quite well as the external purchasing power falls like a stone. “Sooner or later the two must meet, with either inflation or the rand

recovering somewhat,” he said. The Big Mac index also shows that the rand is about 61 percent undervalued when compared to the dollar. (IOL, November 23)

SA “Cheap” for Business

The Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), focusing on 31 countries, has ranked South Africa number 22 in its report which analyses the cost of doing business around the world. A similar report was released by EIU in 1997. The study also looked at whether or not the countries were attracting optimum investment or had the potential to do so in the future. Recession-hit Japan is said to be the most expensive country in the world to do business in because of high labor, rent and expatriate costs. The United States came in a distant second, ahead of Germany, both of which have high labor costs, the EIU report said. (news24.com, November 12)

South Africa Hails Trade Talks

South Africa has welcomed the launch of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations at Doha, Qatar, as the first step towards getting the country support for economic growth and development through trade liberalization. Edwin Smith, spokesman for Trade and Industry Minister Alec Erwin, said the decision to begin negotiations on phasing out agricultural subsidies was positive because this would help South African farmers, and their products to enter the European Union market, which has heavy agricultural subsidies. Smith said a resolution for negotiations on antidumping and countervailing was also to South Africa’s advantage as the country’s steel industry had always been a victim of US anti-dumping duties. He said South Africa also welcomed the decision to implement and interpret the trade-related aspects of the Intellectual Property Rights (Trips) agreement in a manner supportive of public health by promoting both access to existing medicines and research and development into new medicines. The conference, which took place in Doha was aimed at addressing problems encountered by developing and developed countries in the realm of international trade. (Business Day, November 19)

Local Streets Are Ahead of U.S.

South Africans have taught the Americans a thing or two about how to maintain their roads. Bethuel Mashishi, Phelimo Chabane, Wilson Dantji, Clive Motha, five technicians from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) transport divi-

sion, accepted a challenge to help the University of California in Berkeley to test concrete roads, The South African strained the Americans how to use heavy vehicle simulator machines, which help technicians to determine the damage that heavy vehicles cause to roads. The team acted as marketers, trainers and operators of the specialized equipment, which weighs more than 65 tons and is 25m. long and has two engines. Three HVS machines have been sold to the US and one to Finland.

U.S. Doubles Apparel Import Quota

The US House of Representatives voted, unexpectedly but overwhelmingly, on Friday to double the quota of apparel SA and other qualified African countries can ship to the US duty free. Also approved, as part of a bill extending about-to-expire trade preferences for Andean nations, were corrections to the African Growth and Opportunity Act (Agoa) that could unlock substantial new investment in several southern African states. The bill was passed on a voice after a 250-168 majority defeated what would have been a fatal move to send it back to committee for further study. Paul Ryberg, director of African Coalition on Trade, which has been lobbying for the bill on behalf of regional exporters, said the chances were good the senate would act shortly on the measure, meaning it could become law this year. Making the breakthrough possible has been a decision by leaders in both chambers to decouple the Andean-African initiatives from legislation granting US President George Bush's "trade promotion authority" to negotiate trade treaties without congressional micromanagement. As with the act itself, opposition was mostly from Democrats. The act itself, opposition was mostly from Democrats. The Agoa capped the amount of apparel African countries could ship to the US duty free to 1.5 % of overall US imports by volume, rising in small increments to 3.5% in the year starting October 1, 2007. Agoa II, as the revisions were dubbed doubles the annual limits. These still apply to the combined shipments of least developed African countries, which may use fabric from any source for the time being, and richer nations, like South Africa, which must use or regionally sourced cloth. (Business Day, November 19)

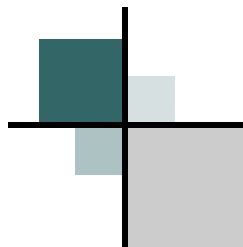
Donors Give Mbeki's Plan for Africa the Thumbs Up

Delegates at conference endorse continent's self-help program. President Mbeki's plan for African economic recovery received a significant boost yesterday when donors gave their backing of the continent's most ambitious self-help program. Leading the endorsement was the host and chairman of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (Ticad) Makiko Tanaka, Japan's foreign min-

ister, who pledged to deepen dialogue between Ticad and the architects of the New Partnership for African Development (Nepad), as the plan is now known. Opening the conference, the Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi welcomed Africa's self help plan and stressed the similarities it shares with Ticad namely, the principle of African ownership and the spirit of partnership. "Development of Africa has to be achieved by hands of Africa," he said. Norway applauded Nepad and what it stands for, and promised to lead the charge in beefing up aid to Africa beyond the internationally agreed levels. Both the World Bank and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) co-organizers of the Ticad meeting also gave their support to the plan, which also seeks to promote good governance, democracy and respect for human rights as well as an end to African conflicts. (Business Day, December 4)

South Africa Hosts 4ICI Summit

South Africa will host the Fourth International Conference on Isotopes (4ICI) in Cape Town in March next year, and more than 300 top nuclear scientists are expected to attend previous meetings were in Beijing (1995), Sydney (1997) and Vancouver (1999) The South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (Necsa) won the bid in 1999 to host 4ICI on behalf of South Africa. 4ICI is supported by major international nuclear institutions including the International Atomic Energy Agency, and is endorsed by the national departments of Health, Minerals and Energy and Arts, Culture, Science and Technology. (Citizen, December 5)



*The Staff of the
South African Consulate
wishes you
A Joyous, Festive Season
and
A Prosperous New Year!*

The Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius*



The Secretarybird is an Afrotropical species, preferring the watershed and lower lying regions. It is widespread in Southern Africa in all vegetation zones except the Namib Desert. It is the only species of its family. It is a pearl-grey bird with red bare facial skin (immature: yellow facial skin), black top leg (thigh) feathers, black main tail-end feathers and peculiar long legs. From the back of its hawk-like head sticks out a crest of long feathers, resembling quill pens, which give the bird its name. In flight the two elongated central tail feathers project well beyond the main tail and legs. Average length: 140 cm.

Call: Normally silent, but during display utters a deep croak.

IUCN: Near threatened.

Habitat: It chooses open country, mainly savanna, open woodland, grassland and dwarf shrubland. It is absent in settled areas and mountain fynbos, and avoids forest, dense woodland and very rocky, hilly or mountainous areas. It is sensitive to habitat degradation due to overgrazing, bush encroachment and disturbance, and loss of habitat to afforestation and crop cultivation.

Diet: The bird usually stalks over the open veld to search for snakes, lizards, small mammals, birds and large insects. What is indigestible in the food is regurgitated in pellets. Movements: There are no regular seasonal movements, although the birds are nomadic in low-rainfall (arid) areas.

Breeding: Breeding takes place in all months, except in southern areas where breeding was not recorded in midwinter. The nest is a big platform of sticks on the flat crown of a low tree, and the clutch is two or three white eggs. Historical distribution and conservation: The current distribution is considered to reflect closely the historical distribution. Several areas with high reporting rates correspond with large conservation areas, e.g. Kruger National Park, Kgalagadi Transfrontier Conservation Area, Hwange National Park and Etosha. The species has undergone a rapid and massive decrease outside such areas.

Nelson Mandela visits Ground Zero



Upcoming Events

World Economic Forum: Davos in New York

For the first time in its 31 year history, The World Economic Forum will conduct the Annual Meeting 2001 outside of Davos, Switzerland from 31 January to 4 February, 2002. The Forum is convinced that in these extraordinary times, New York City is the most appropriate location for this event. The World Economic Forum serves as a platform for discussion, debate and action on the key issues on the global agenda. Supported by 1,000 of the foremost international companies, the Forum engages business and society in partnership to improve the state of the world. For more information, please visit the WEF's website at www.weforum.org.

Black History Month Observance

In 1915, historian Carter G. Woodson honored the history and contributions of African-

Americans. Nine years later, his dream became a reality. Woodson chose the second week of February to pay tribute to the birthdays of two Americans that dramatically affected the lives of black Americans: Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and Frederick Douglass (February 14). The week-long observance officially became Black History Month in 1976. It offers an opportunity to the African-American community to reflect on their long journey to freedom and to further celebrate their tribulations and accomplishments that had accompanied their journey. The South African Consulate General will observe Black History Month in solidarity with the community of New York. The Celebration will offer South Africa the opportunity to reflect as well as build further on the rich heritage that the United States and South Africa share.

Freedom Day Celebration April 2002

South Africa is home to 43 million people comprising of some 13 national (language) groups and many other different nationals. The rainbow nation, a term coined by Archbishop Tutu aptly describes the diversity of the people

of South Africa. The term represents hope and promise for the future and the emergence of the new from the old that sought to divide.

The South African political climate has in the past 8 years altered dramatically. Apart from the new found political freedom, for the first time all South Africans are entitled to clean water, education, social welfare and health and an ever growing economic infrastructure that will further enhance human development and prosperity. For the first time the majority of South African population can share and receive recognition as vibrant people with energetic cultural roots that is deeply embedded into the history of South Africa.

The South African Consulate General proposes to celebrate South African Freedom Day. A Freedom Day Celebration will build public awareness of South Africa and spark interest not just culturally but economically as well. The aim of Freedom Day would be to celebrate the country and highlight the positive growth taking place there. Many people in the United States have minimal exposure to a post-apartheid South Africa.