FILE NAME: Asbestos Sacks and Bags (ASB)

DATE: мфст !ʤ∃ ом

DOC#: ASB0мp

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: bŜøǎLJl·LJŜℕ !ℕűλŏfŜ π a₴ℕŜ űKl·y˝рлл !ǎōŜǎű₴ǎ aλyŜ ² ₴ℕ⅂Ŝℕǎ .ŜλyƎ [l·λŘ h₸₸ l·ű űKŜ / l·LJŜ !ǎōŜǎű₴ǎ aλyŜ λy˝{₴ʤűK !₸ℕJλŏl·

500 asbestos miners laid off

PRODUCTION CUT-BACK AT KOEGAS, N.W. CAPE

From Our Correspondent
Cape Town, Thursday.

MORE than 500 asbestos mineworkers are being laid off at the Cape Asbestos S.A. mine at Koegas, Northern Cape, because of a cut-back in production.

An official at the mine said in a telephone interview that the cut-back was partly due to the credit squeeze and partly due to a cancer scare among British dockworkers.

The technical director of the company, Mr. L. N. Kuyper, said in Johannesburg, however, that the cut-back was a "purely domestic decision of the company," because stocks at Koegas had been accumulating.

The mine official said that the production cut-back was likely to last for a few months. In the meantime, about 40 White workers were being transferred to the company's mine near Pietersburg.

About 80 Coloured workers were being placed in jobs at other mines at Marydale, Prieska and elsewhere.

SENT BACK

About 500 African workers who had completed their migrant labour contracts were being sent back to their homelands. Their contracts would not be renewed and they would not be replaced, he said.

The official said stocks had accumulated at the mine while stocks in Britain had run down because of the recent cancer scare among dockworkers.

"Somebody went on to television and said that asbestos caused cancer, so the dockers refused to handle it," he said.

He said that, partly as a result of this, the industry was trying to standardise the packing of asbestos. At the Cape Blue Mine, the asbestos for export was packed in paper-lined hessian bags or multi-layered paper bags.

He said there were no health problems on the mine caused by the asbestos.

CREDIT SQUEEZE

The official said it was necessary now to turn the accumulated stocks into cash. "The credit squeeze is pressing everybody and we feel it, too." The mine was loading as fast as possible to raise the cash.

Mr. Kuyper discounted reports that the cancer scare had caused the lay-offs. He said: "For purely economic reasons we have asked the Bantu Affairs Commissioner in Cape Town for permission to transfer some of our workers from Koegas to our mine in the Transvaal.

"This request had nothing to do with asbestos or lung cancer and was purely a domestic decision of the company. Stocks have been accumulating at Koegas and we have merely taken steps to put our house in order.

"Apparently the people at Kuruman have done the same."

Other mines in the area reported today that they were not affected. A spokesman for the small Glen Allan Mines at Prieska said that nobody there had been laid off. Glen Allan Mines sell their asbestos to Cape Blue Mines.

The general manager of the Kuruman Cape Blue Asbestos Mine (Mr. P. C. B. Wentzel) said his company produced about half the country's output of blue asbestos but that it marketed the product mainly in Europe.

"We send very little to Britain and so we have not been affected by the British dock troubles."

However, because of the recession in Europe, some contracts had been postponed.

"We had slight retrenchment some time ago — a few months ago. But not now. What we are doing is more in the nature of postponing expansions."

Refere
scan
be p
STAFF

RUGBY and soccer le
assaults on two referees
— and promised swift

A Rugby referee, Mr. K
Stander, was hit as he enter
the dressing-room at Ellis Pa
after the important Poli
Diggers grand challenge mat
A soccer referee, Mr. John
McDonald, was kicked and
in his dressing-room at Balfo
Park after the Highlands Pa
Corinthians game.

Mr. Jannie le Roux, preside
of the Transvaal Rugby Fo
ball Union, said last night:
think the assault on M
Stander was absolutely sca
dalous. We will definitely sta
a full investigation into t
affair at the T.R.F.U. meeti
tonight."

Mr. Dave Marais, chairma
of the National Footba
League, was equally upset. H
said a special meeting of t
executive of the N.F.L. ha
been called for today.

"We will start by listeni
to reports and then conduct
very thorough investigation. W
said at the beginning of t
season that we would do ever
thing in our power to stam
out hooliganism among spe
tators — and that is still o
intention."

Mr. Stander said he did n
consider the attack on him
be very serious. But Mr. M
Donald said he would definite
retire from the game.

Mr. Stander said he had

HOUSE GROUP

In th
afterno
thunder
blasting
the min
the noise
African
colic.
tly scented
g grown in
Gard in
n on y
found ir

teenth
were
the
fina
made after
f the pro-
ternational
d of