

# <sup>Times</sup> Sanctions could cut Africans' food supply

From Nicholas Ashford 11/3/81  
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South Africa has warned black neighbouring states that they risk having their supplies of grain cut off if they continue to support sanctions against the republic.

The warning was given by Mr Pieter Botha, the Prime Minister, after a session of the State Security Council, one of the most influential decision-taking bodies in the country. The question of grain supplies to black Africa was also discussed at a meeting of the Cabinet today which reviewed the outcome of last week's sanctions vote in the United Nations General Assembly.

Mr Botha said South Africa had always suggested a formula for cooperation with its neighbours, but if they chose to act differently they should accept that counter-measures would be applied.

Last year South Africa supplied about 700,000 tons of maize to black Africa—notably to Kenya, Zambia, Mozambique, Zaire, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland—without which some of the inhabitants of these countries would have starved.

This year Zimbabwe, which is expected to produce a big grain surplus, will be able to meet some of these countries' needs. But some of them will remain dependent on South African supplies.

All of South Africa's neighbours, with the exception of Swaziland, voted in favour of sanctions last week. However, Botswana and Lesotho later indicated that because of their geographic links with South Africa they would not be able to support sanctions.

The question of food supplies to South Africa's "unfriendly neighbours" has become a lead-

ing issue in the general election campaign. The ultra right-wing Herstigte Nasionale Party has accused the Government of "feeding people who kill our sons", by supplying countries like Angola, Mozambique and Zambia with foodstuffs.

**Faction fights:** Seventeen people were killed and an undisclosed number of others wounded in faction fights in eastern Pondoland, in the Transkei Bantustan, at the weekend, Colonel S. Funani, head of the Criminal Investigation Department announced.

He said the fights, between the inhabitants of two rival locations in the Flagstaff district of north-eastern Transkei, lasted for two hours.

Colonel Funani said that those involved had fled to a forest near by before the arrival of the police, who had yet to make arrests.—Agence France-Presse.