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Multinational Companies Operating in Namibia: An Overview

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MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES OPERATING IN NAMIBIA

An Overview

A glossary of companies with a presence in Namibia is attached. This is however little more than a list of names and belies the proportional importance of a small handful of them.

Many of these companies have been questioned concerning the morality of their presence, their view on its dubious legality or their likely reaction to ante-dated compensation proposals. The companies have also been asked, often, their attitude towards independence and the near certainty, given anything resembling fair elections, of a SWAPO victory.

Company responses to these points varies and among the reasons for this are the differing role, scale and longevity of their investment.

Not all the companies operating in Namibia, in violation of Decree No. 1, are transnational corporate, TNCs, in the traditional sense of the concept. Some which are, seldom featured high on any global table of TNC power. A presence in Namibia is, for example, often the sole overseas operations of many of the South African companies listed.

As in any underdeveloped country TNCs contribute to, benefit from and reinforce the distortions in the economy. Namibia exhibits many of the classic tendencies in regard to the process. The mining sector, almost entirely geared to export-for-benefication, is entirely in foreign hands. It contributes around 50% of the gross domestic product and half of that, a quarter of the potential revenue for the national economy, is in the hands of one South African company. Fishing, an export industry in a country where many people suffer the effects of PCM (protein calorie malnutrition) is all but controlled by five inter-related South African companies. It is necessary to move substantially down the league of contributors to GDP before one finds a major company, Metje & Zeigler, which is not foreign owned.
Hidden among the objectives of ENOK, of the PSF or of the recent buyers of SWABANK, is the promotion of local capital formation and the development of nationally owned business. These are likely to be extremely thin on the ground when Namibia becomes independent.

A significant feature of TNC operation in Namibia, noticeable in the mining sector because of its relative size, is that much of it is 'stand alone'. A lot of the mining operations are not integrated into the companies' global structure. In some cases the Namibian output is seen as merely an adjunct to the South African operations. This may well have been a conscious political decision for it decreases the vulnerability of the company to expropriation, or the threat of it.

A particularly obvious phenomena of recent times has been the extent to which mines in Namibia have been put on a care and maintenance basis or closed down altogether. It is not possible to correlate these instances with weak prices in the metal or mineral concerned although this has usually been the reason given for the action.

The list of minerals produced by Namibia is impressive, headed by copper and tin. They also include silver, zine, iron, tungsten, lead, manganese, vanadium, cadmium, chrome in metals, uranium and coal in energy products and of course diamonds as well as a number of low value non-metallic minerals.

Without exception all exploration and extraction is foreign owned and there is only the minimal level of beneficiation; a zine smelter, some blister copper and a recently closed diamond processing plant. The domicile for most of the mining investment is South Africa and, in turn, Anglo American/de Beers and Gencor. Apart from RTZ's Kossing mine the level of commitment of the non-South African owned mining operations has to be seen as fairly minimal.
Taking up this last point it could be suggested that if it came to a crunch situation firms like Amax, Elf, Imetal, Klöckner, Metallgesellschaft, Olthaver, US Steel, might well decide to write off their investment, such as it is. The constraint acting against this is the extent to which, for example, Metallgesellschafts' operation SWA Lithium, run by Otavi Minen, represents an important source of a particular product. This, CDM's diamonds, and the tin/tungsten lead/zinc complexes are exceptions to an otherwise depressing rule.

A reverse tendency, again very much the province of the TNCs, is the interest being shown in Namibia's energy resources. The presence of RTZ tends to mask the existence of Genfor's Langer Heinrich operation or the interest being shown by Elf in uranium. Similarly, oil exploration has continued, at various levels of seriousness, under the auspices of Total, Elf, Chevron, Conoco, Syracuse and a number of less reputable companies.

One locally incorporated company, H&M Mining & Exploration, has been involved in the business.

Namibia's coal reserves, estimated to be one billion tonnes, are slowly being expropriated by the Amcoal subsidiary of Anglos in conjunction with de Beers and the US company Utah, a subsidiary of General Electric.

In terms of jobs CDM (de Beers), Rössing (RTZ) and TCL-Tsumeb (Newmont/Amax) collectively constitute the industry's major employers. The closures in other mines have obviously increased the importance of these three and this necessarily gives them a great deal of leverage in respect of relations with a Department of Labour in Namibia, now or in the future.

Another aspect of TNC operations in this, or any other sector, is that corporate taxation does not often accrue to the Namibian treasury. Much publicity has been given to the minimal level of taxation effectively levied on Rössing but they are one among many who take advantage of such laxity. Equally important TNC operations in Namibiaan mining bear
much similarity to their undertakings in other underdeveloped regions in that the principle of *husbanding* resources in a planned mixture of high/low grades is rejected.

This will manifest itself to an increasing extent when an independent Namibia begins to develop a relationship with the mining companies and is told that the best seams are worked out.

The fishing industry accounts for around 20% of Namibian export earnings and is totally dominated by SWAFIL, Kaap Kunene, Overstone Inv, Irvin & Johnson, Sea Products, Wm. Barendz and the Genfor subsidiary Fedmar. British, Spanish, Canadian and US interests lurk in the background. The on-off nature of the pelagic catch was a source of much controversy in the industry in 1980 and 1981 but it is clear that the waters are being grossly overfished. 'Trawlers' that operate more like vacuum cleaners have been largely responsible for this and aside from Japanese companies like Nikon Suissa, many of the ships are operated by state corporations run by governments whose role in supporting Namibian independence has been otherwise impeccable.

For the seven South African companies noted above Namibian fishing interests represent the major part of their operation which extends through *canning* and processing to the production of fish meal. Marketing relationships exist with companies such as Buñini and John West. The major issue here is the extent to which most of the company operations are centred on one part and the difficulties that this might present for the Namibianization of the fishing industry.

The farming, ranching and *karakul*, sector is not totally free of international corporate interests. The three major South African red meat companies and the major international wool brokers effectively provide a market and determine a price for the Namibian farmers. It has
to be noted that most commercial farming in Namibia is in South African, even if non-corporate, hands.

The primary sector is so important to Namibia that the degree of overseas control clearly presents itself as unwholesome. But the economic leverage in other sectors which resides in TNC hands is if anything just as great. Again they are for the most part South African, Baïlow Rand being the most ubiquitous. Their interests extend through building and construction and engineering to warehousing and retail.

A number of British and other European companies are represented in the secondary sector, in manufacturing, but given the infrastructural distortions in the Namibian economy their role is minimal. Much of the construction activity, and most of the engineering is either linked to the mining operations or more probably to the South African military effort. The latter has been particularly important for road building in the North.

Fish canning is the only major industry of note and as mentioned above it is largely dominated by a handful of small South African companies.

In commerce most of the major stores in towns of any size are associated with one of the South African major groups, Greatermans, Pick-n-Pay, Edgars etc. and this even applies to some of the smaller specialised stores particularly in the capital, e.g. Foschini.

Trade is in itself a contentious issue for the data published by the authorities in Windhoek is open to question. Even so it is clear that while exports of largely unprocessed primary sector goods are largely in the hands of the producing companies or their associates imports too are foreign controlled. Companies such as Barlows probably account for the major part of the import trade in consumer and capital
goods whilst food imports, ludicrous in themselves for Namibia which has the capacity to produce all its own food, have seemingly become the host of political patronage.

Banking and finance are, with the possible exception of SWABANK, foreign owned. The building societies, en masse headquartered themselves outside Namibia sometime back and the major banks in Namibia, Nedbank, Volksas, Standard-Chartered seem to make very little lending to industry. That role has now passed to ENOK (FNDC) though again with dubious results.

The utilities are owned by South African agencies such as ESOM and shipping and transport is the province either of the South African Conference, in which European and US firms are well represented or by traders such as Mitchell-Colts. The problem then is of an economy totally dominated by foreign interests, many of them TNCs, and their presence either shuts out any local enterprise or makes the price of 'buying-in' prohibitively high.

A small part, certain sections like construction, may well change as Namibia moves towards independence. However the post-independence government is inevitably going to have to come to terms with this oversea presence and may well not have the resources at its disposal for anything other than gestures towards nationalisation. The levels of investment in all but the primary sector have been very low - justified both by the situation and by the size of the market.

Import substitution industries in areas such as water pumps and cement are going to be costly but necessary if Namibia is not to be vulnerable to economic blackmail. It may well be that some of the companies presently operating these will be happy to invest, others may not.
It is difficult to judge at this time which category firms will fall into. Companies, particularly the larger ones, that adopt the pragmatism of enlightened self interest, e.g. RTZ, Barlow Rand, CDM, probably will stay and co-operate. The decision will be made easier by the foreknowledge of substantial aid, from the EEC in particular. Given that most of the companies are South African, or also have major interests in South Africa, the decision may rest as such on the ability to resist pressures from the PreTOR government. Alone among the major Afrikaneer companies Barlow Rand has shown itself to be unamenable to political pressure.

The data at present available on all but the major companies in Namibia is minimal. This is very unlike the pre-independence situation in Zimbabwe although the comparison might be thought invidious. The contribution of this unquantified proportion to the total stock of investment, to tax revenue, to export earnings, to income generation and to employment is unknown. The figure produced by the South African sponsored authorities in Windhoek are unreliable and of course exclude Walvis Bay,, an integral part of the country. Accordingly, such information may well be an interesting exercise now, but it would prove invaluable to SWAPO after independence when decisions on resource allocation will have to be taken.

Brian Bolton
TGWU
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List of International Companies Operating in Namibia

AUSTRALIA
INVESTMENT
Leichhardt Exploration, Adelaide-based affiliate of the Geometale Conex group, acquired the Aukum Diamond Concession in 1979 thought to contain kimberlite.
OTHERS
Dave Ltd. & Steller Mining jointly own Brazil Benguela Exploration & Finance which has a diamond concession.

BELGIUM
TRADE
Belgium is a large importer of blister copper from the Tsumeb mines which is refined at the Metallurgie-Hoboken Overpelt refinery, owned by Metallgesellschaft AG (German). Belgium provides no separate breakdown of trade with Namibia in its foreign trade statistics; Namibia Support Committee can provide details of U.N. analysis of copper imports. Namibian diamonds are bought by Antwerp cutting firms. Belgian ports have been used for the transport of Namibian uranium.
SHIPPING
Companie Maritime Belge owned by Generale de Belgique via subsidiary Chanic SA, CMB, is a member of the South and South East Africa Shipping Conference, and takes part in regular scheduled sailings to and from Southern African ports (including Walvis Bay) and Antwerp.
OTHERS
Bekaert NV SA. owns Beka Engineering Co Pty. (import and fabricate glass fibre); Generale de Belgique, via subsidiary Chanic SA owns Aideco Pty (construction equipment, bought from LTA, South Africa); International des Pais Armes Frankignaul (via South African subsidiary Fronkiple – supplies mining and pile driving equipment), Westcott Shipping – owns Westcott Association, shipping agents.
CANADA
INVESTMENT
Falconbridge Nickel Mines Ltd., Toronto, (48% owned by Superior Oil U.S.) holds 74.9% of the equity of the Oamites Mining Company (Pty) Ltd. which operates a copper and silver mine at Oamites in the Rehoboth Gebiet. The other shareholder is the S.A. Industrial Development Corporation. Copper concentrates are smelted at Tsumeb for export as blister copper. Falconbridge is also presently developing a copper-lead-silver mine at Elbe, reportedly as large as the Oamites one and is engaged in uranium prospecting in the Rossing area.

Rio Algom Ltd., 51% owned by RTZ Limited, has a 10% equity share in Rossing Uranium Ltd., and in 1976 this was reported by the company to be at C$ 6m., which was loaned to Rossing.

SHIPPING
The Canadian City Line (owned by Ellerman Lines UK) is a full member of the Canada/South Africa Freight Rate Ass., which scheduled sailings between Great Lakes Ports and SW/S/SE Africa.

OTHERS
Hudson’s Bay owns 59% of the British subsidiary Hudson’s Bay and Annings.
Consolidated Mining and Smelting is involved in mineral exploration.
Bata, (via Bata Shoe Co. S.A.)
Canadian Pacific Lines – Eland Exploration.
Dolman Industries Ltd. – Futura Mining.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
INVESTMENT
Metallgesellschaft AG has a majority shareholding in SWA Lithium Mines (Pty) Ltd., producing lithium ores at Karibib for processing into lithium carbonate and other compounds. It also has a 5% shareholding in Kiln Products Ltd., which produces zinc oxide from concentrates.
Urangesellschaft AG participated in the initial prospecting work at Rossing and is reported to hold an equity share in Rossing Uranium Ltd.
Ohlthave Gruppe has part ownership of Khan Mine (Pty) Ltd. mining copper concentrates near Rossing. Thorer Gruppe is the holding company for interests of Thorer & Hollander in karakul farms in Namibia, and Thorer & Co (q.v.).
Otavi Minen & Eisenbahn Gesellschaft completely own Otavi Mining Co. (Johannesburg) which has shares in S.W.A.C.O. of U.K. and property in Windhoek.
TRADE
West Germany is a significant importer of blister copper from Tsumeb. These imports are not shown in their foreign trade statistics, which do not classify Namibia separate from South Africa, but are revealed in the trade statistics for cargo handled at the port of Hamburg. Copper is refined at
the Norddeutsche Raffinerie, Hamburg. Karakul pelts are purchased from the London SWAKARA auctions, by leading West German fur companies. Thorer & Co are one of the biggest processors of karakul and own the Thorer fur Processing Company, Cape Town.

Urangesellschaft AG is partly owned by the West German government through Veba AG which has contracted to buy uranium oxide from Rossing mine. These supplies are processed at the URENCO facilities in Britain and Holland. This enriched uranium is fabricated into reactor fuel rods by Kraftwerk Union.

SHIPPING

Deutsche-Ost-Afrika-Linie, DOAL, is part of the S/SE African Conference and operates regular sailings to and from Walvis Bay, where it maintains an office. Namibian pilchards are imported for sale as canned fish.

OTHER

Tiefbohr AG has been oildrilling. Lurgi Gesellschaft AG is engaged in electrical work on Rossing and other mines. Volkswagen AG sell and maintain vehicles. Commerz Bank/Deutsche Bank/Dresdner Bank owns SWABANK, and local Nationalist Party interests are trying to prevent it taking over the Namibian subsidiary of Volksas. It made loans to mining and ESCOM projects.


FRANCE

Minatome (Pty) a joint subsidiary of Total (Compagnie Française des Petroles) and Pechiney Ugine-Kuhlman holds 10% of the equity of Rossing Uranium Ltd. and has a contract for the import of an undisclosed quantity of Rossing uranium. The company is part of two joint venture projects, one involving Anglos and Omitaramines exploring for uranium and another with Elf in oil exploration. Banque de l'Indochine has a majority holding in the French Bank of Southern Africa Ltd., with a branch in Windhoek.

TRADE

No separate trade statistics for Namibia provided. Namibian pilchards are imported for sale as canned fish.

Over 70 tons of uranium was recently being flown to French airports per week. French supplies go to the hexafluoride plants at Pierrelatte and Narbonne (Comurleix) opened by the French Government.

SOCOPO, based in France, involving between 90 and 109 companies in marketing beef, has signed a contract to market Namibian beef via France, to 77 countries, including Gabon, Ivory Coast and Senegal, and to finance a R20 million abattoir cold storage complex in Namibia.
SHIPPING

*Compagnie Maritime des Chargeurs Reunis* and *Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes* are members of the S/SE Africa Conference.

AIR

The UTA airline operates regularly to Windhoek and is chartered to fly out consignments of Rosing uranium to Paris.

OTHER

*Societe Miniere et Metallurgique de Penarroya*, prospecting for base metals, is part of the Imetal group, 11% held by Amax, but whose principal owners are the Rothschild family. The company operates in Namibia via Vendome whose major activity is the joint venture with Nord Mining (U.S.). *Societe Nationale de Petrole d’Aquitaine* is prospecting for off-shore fuels with de Beers through SWAKOR, a subsidiary of the RSA-government owned SOEKOR. Mining operations of Elf are run by Omitaramines. *Total-CFP* distributing fuel throughout the territory, *Credit Commercial de France/Credit Lyonnais SA* loans to Kunene project.

Air Liquide – gas.

Batignollet – engineers

*Financiere de Paris Et Des Pays Bas*

*Le Nickel* is in joint venture with BRGM in oil prospecting, *Le Nickel* being part of Imetal.

*Peugeot SA* – see Barlow Rand S.A.

*Soletanche S.A.* – radio

ITALY

TRADE

Italy does not keep separate trade statistics for Namibia but according to metal trade information imports refined lead from Namibia.

SHIPPING

*Lloyd Triestino* is a member of the S/SE African Conference and vessels call regularly at Walvis Bay, where the company has an office, on north-bound voyages to Spanish and Italian ports.

MARKETING

*Industrie Buitoni Perugina Spa* is a majority owner of *Princess Foods Ltd* of Liverpool, a canned fish distributor, and supplier of canned pilchards to the UK and European markets, most of which come from Namibia.

OTHER


*BCS Sp A* – BCS Kunsverspreiders – registered as ‘art dealers’.

JAPAN

TRADE

Japan publishes separate trade statistics for Namibia and its figures show that blister copper and refined lead are the imports of greatest value.
Japan is also believed to be importing Rossing uranium via the USA amounting to 10% of its supplies, despite having pledged not to do so in the UN General Assembly in 1976.

SHIPPING
*Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd* is a full member of the Japan/Hong Kong/South Africa Conference with scheduled sailing to and from Walvis Bay.

OTHER
*Akai*
*Nikon Suissa K-K*: fishing - operate factory ships
*Tohatsu* - operates through Anglos selling outboard motors
*Nissan* - Toyota cars are sold by Barlow Rand but Toyota has an interest in Metain holdings, a South African company which itself has operations in Namibia.

PORTUGAL
TRADE
Portugal imports diamonds from *Erongo Rocks and Gems*, the only diamond processors in Namibia.

ISRAEL
FISHING
*Atlantic Fisheries*, joint venture with ENOK at Luderitz, also embracing Swafil, Anglovaal and Nihon Suissa U.K.

SWITZERLAND
The following five firms are the only known Swiss companies in Namibia:
*Schindler Holdings* - lift maintenance.
*Sulzer Bros.* - sewing machine sales.
*Tele Data Computers* - computer servicing.
*Geometale Comex*, via Leichardi (Australian – see Australia)
*KTZ Mineral Services Ltd*.

NETHERLANDS
INVESTMENT
Dutch firms involved in Namibia include *Phillips*, with an electronics marketing agency in Namibia, and *SHELL* (60% owned by Royal Dutch Petroleum Company) with extensive exploration and marketing activities. *Billiton Exploration SWA (Pty) Ltd*, a Shell subsidiary was registered in Namibia in 1979 for mining exploration.

TRADE
Namibian uranium is enriched at the joint British, German and Dutch facility at Almedo as a part of the *Urenco* alliance despite Dutch Government recognition of UN Decree No.1.
SHIPPING
Royal Interocian Lines (part of the Netherlands/general Shipping Union) are major carriers of cargo from S. Africa. With vessels calling regularly at Walvis Bay. Belongs to the S/SE Africa Conference. Rotterdam likely as a transhipment point for some Namibian goods for West Germany.

OTHER
Dura International BV – construction
Development Centre
National Nederlanden Ltd. – Airclaims Ltd. via U.K. Co.; Insurance via Johannesburg
Konenkigte Nedloyd Group – Capricorn Meat Industries, refining and shipping via R.S.A. company.

NORWAY
Norway imports some 1,000 tons of refined lead annually from Namibia.

SHIPPING
Norwegian bulk carriers are regularly chartered for carrying consignments of Namibian copper to Hamburg. The main shipping firms involved (identity of ships verified by Lloyds of London) are Gill-Johannessen & Co, Havor A/S (owned by P. Meyer), Torwald Klaveness.

SPAIN
TRADE
Spain imports small quantities of blister copper for domestic consumption from Tsumeb. Spanish fishing vessels are active in Namibian offshore waters in pelagic fishing. Spanish interests have control in the Pescanova Fishing Company of SWA (Pty) Ltd. and the Gaditana Fishing Co. (Pty) Ltd. (owned by Perquerias Gaditana De Gran Alta).

SOUTH AFRICA
Although a large number of European and American companies are engaged in the plunder of Namibian resources most of the infrastructural industry, much of commerce and transportation and virtually all fishing and farming is in the hands of South African-based companies and their agents. Even the principal “Namibian” company, Metje & Zeigler, is part South African controlled.

Namibia loses in two ways. Virtually all the companies are incorporated in South Africa and therefore little in the way of tax revenue accrues there, and South Africa handles virtually all the foreign trade so customs duties are denied the Windhoek treasury. The facts give the lie to statements such as that of the prime-minister of South Africa on the occasion
of the censure motion at the opening of the 1982 Parliamentary session when he said that South Africa was subsidising Namibia.

South Africa's expropriation of Namibia's wealth is clouded in official secrecy and in notoriously obscure national statistics. Nevertheless, the statistics up to 1956 are reliable and, using what is subsequently available, for example from the Odendaal Commission (1964) and Wolfgang Thomas (1978) who had access to government figures, cross tabulation and detailed projection and regression analysis produce a picture of fundamental importance for the liberation of Namibia from South Africa's colonial stranglehold. Namibia's Balance of Payments show a huge visible trade surplus ( + R390M in 1977) counterbalanced by a huge loss on "invisibles", mostly capital transfers out of Namibia (-R360M in 1977). Because the South African state includes Namibia within its Rand currency zone and acts as Namibia's central bank, the Net Currency Gain From Namibia to South Africa is considerably higher than a superficial look would suggest. All currency flows which remain within the currency zone (Namibia and South Africa) must be separated out, while all transactions emanating from Namibia with third countries, including those going via South Africa, must be separately computed. The South African Reserve Bank and treasury made a net foreign currency gain from third countries of about R380M in 1977. To this should be added another R180M made from South African imports from and exports to Namibia, the hard currency for which is denied Namibia through the colonial trade monopoly. This huge currency gain cannot be offset by South African state capital spending, which should (but isn't) computed as "foreign investment". Nor can it be offset against South Africa's military spending in Namibia (variously estimated at between R600M and R1000M per year in 1982) which would continue within South Africa itself were Namibia to be independent. South Africa's state and capital owners in fact benefit enormously from the colonial arrangement. If they didn't, they wouldn't fight to continue it.

COMMERCIAL FARMING

By 1960, 39 million hectares (50% of the total area and 90% of the central plateau) was occupied by 5,000 white commercial farmers, 60% of whom are of South African origin. These farmers have traditionally been supplied with wide-ranging subsidisation and technical back-up from the SAG, as well as access to South Africa's protected markets. In recent years syndicates have emerged to manipulate the market for particular products, and private management of farms has spread. The processing of meat for export is controlled by a handful of South African companies: Suid-Afrikaanse (Sentraal Kooperatief), known as Vleissentraal, with two factories at Otavi and Windhoek; Karoo Meat Exchange at Okahandja, and Afrikaans Sake-Outwikkelinas Korporasie (ASKOR) Karoo and ASOKOR are both ultimately owned by Picardi Investments.

FISHING

As in the processing of meat, fish harvesting and processing is dominated
by South African interests. The industry accounts for some 20% of export earnings, and by the mid-1970s around $30m. has been invested by 9 closely-connected companies, all South African, which controlled the fleet of 240 trawlers and the all-important canneries of Walvis Bay and Luderitz. By 1979 the four leading groups in the fishing cartel controlled the industry’s entire processed output and most of the marketing: S.W.A. Fishing Industries (8 canneries), Kaap Kunene (3), Marine Products (2), and Ovenstone Investments (1).

MINING
South Africa-based mining investment in Namibia represents about 20% of the total stock in the sector, but this is a deceptively important fifth. It also bears little relation to the wealth of minerals extracted. For example CDM extracts alluvial diamonds where the investment cost is minimal but the rewards great. Also the proportion of new investment stemming from all five South African mining houses now greatly exceeds that coming from otherwise long-established companies. This involvement, in part supported by RSA government agencies such as the Industrial Development Corporation (which has a critical voting stake in Rossing), is in what are seen as “strategic” mineral areas such as copper, coal, uranium and oil exploration.

Despite the bewildering array of cross investments and interlocking shareholdings, infinitely more complex than the examples in fishing, the companies tend to operate quite separately. The “nominee” holdings and quotes on the world stock exchanges are essentially methods of averting exchange controls and dividend restraint, as well as disguising political allegiances. In terms of importance to Namibia Barlow-Rand is way out in front. Interests are held directly and through major subsidiaries such as Nampak, Rand Mines, Barswa, Thos. Barlows and Barlow’s Trust. In total they extend from mining (semi precious stones and limestone), construction and road building, engineering, domestic appliances and motor sales (the largest in the territory), spares and equipment, servicing and wholesaling to retailing and transport. In reflecting that the company spans the entire economy it is worth noting that, in South African business terms, the company is relatively progressive, being one of the few to recognise bona fide Black trade unions.

At the opposite end of the political spectrum lays Gencor (General Mining Union Corporation), a spin-off from the major Afrikaaner company Federale Volksbellegings (FVB). Through Gencor, Federale Mynbou (Fedmyn), Federale Voedsel (Fedfood) and other associates, FVB operates the Langer Heinrich uranium mine, Klein Aub Koper, joint-owns Minets Developments*, itself a mini-mining investment house and has fishing interests through a consortium in which it is the largest partner. FVB itself has property and farming interests in Namibia. Another

(*Minets is 50/50 owned by FVB and Johnnies as is largely an agency for mining finance though it also acts as the marketing company for Otjihase copper).
subsidiary, *Strathmore Services and Finance Corp.*, is involved in
diamond and tin mining and offshore oil exploration.

FVB is possibly the largest single holder of land in Namibia through its
mining concessions (estimated variously at between 20,000 and 100,000
square km.), its farming interests, oil prospecting sectors and through
property holdings.

The most profitable single operation in Namibia is that run by the
*CDM Pty*—subsidary of de Beers. This mines gem diamonds and the output
represents half of all gem stones sold on world markets. CDM does no
processing in the country that being done by cutters in New York, Tel
Aviv, London, Antwerp, Amsterdam, Bombay and Puerto Rico. Sales
are effected by the CSO (Central Selling Organisation) which is a consorti-
um of diamond trading interests established in the 1930's within which de
Beers exercises an effective monopoly. During 1981 Zaire, Sierra Leone
and Australia indicated their preparedness to wrest control of marketing
of gem stones from de Beers' CSO. De Beers are also involved in oil pros-
specting both independently and in conjunction with Elf (F).

*Johnnies* (Johannesburg Consolidated Investments) have mining
interests in Namibia via the South African Minerals Corp and B & O
Exploration. In 1981 the company bought out the other major share-
holders in Otjihase copper.

*Anglovaal* operates in Namibia through its 58% owned associate,
*African Triangle*; (U.S. Steel owns 30%). Aside from fishing interests the
company is engaged in prospecting for and mining uranium as well as run-
ning a sodalite mine at Oshakati.

Last, but far from least, we come to Anglos. The world-wide opera-
tions of the *Anglo-American Corporation* are based on an incredible
string of interlaced companies, the majority of them nameplates on the
doors of empty offices. As far as Namibia is concerned Anglos has a
major involvement. The major links are in *Kiln Products* (which owns
*SBACO***) which is held by *Charter Consolidated*, the UK-based Anglos
vehicle for European expansion, in engineering, construction and com-
merce via ITA, insurance through African Eagle, coal exploration via
Amcoal, quarrying and building via Consgold and zinc mining and pro-
cessing via GFSA (Gold Fields of South Africa). The American Anglos
company, the Bermuda-based, Minorco (the Minerals and Resources
Corporation) has acquired stakes, some of them substantial, in several US
companies operating in and trading from Namibia. Finally Anglos links
with de Beers mean that the combined entity is the single most important
entity operating in Namibia.

Taking just two examples; CDM Pty, who moved their head office
from Windhoek to Kimberley (RSA) in 1978, is 98% owned by de Beers,
(itself 30% directly owned by Anglos), has eight Namibian registered sub-
sidiaries ranging from the wholly-owned *Mamora Mine* and *Southwest

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*Consolidated Diamond Mines

**South West Africa Company*
Finance to the 52% held Diamond Trading Company. CDM’s response to the 81/82 slump in diamond prices was to close one of the treatment plants in Namibia. Kiln Products is effectively a wholly-owned Anglo company though the holdings stand in the names of Consgold, GFSA, SWACO and Vogelstruusbuilt. Kiln operates four mines, Berg Aukus (zinc, lead and vanadaium), Brandberg (tin/tungsten), Otjivalunda (salt) and White Lady (sodium chlorite).

Aside from the major mining houses heavy interest in Namibian minerals a number of other companies have an involvement in the sector. The strangely named Industrial Diamonds of South Africa (which has no operations outside Namibia) owns a third of the Lorelei Copper complex at Warmbad and half of IMCOR Zinc aside from its diamond business, IMCOR is effectively a subsidiary of the South African state controlled steel firm ISCOR, IMCOR and ZINCOR, in which GFSA have a stake, control the major part of Namibian zinc output both via interests in Rosh Pinah and Uis to the purchasing of Kiln Products output. Finally it is worth remembering that water supplies and electricity generation in Namibia are run under the tutelage of the South African parasitist the Industrial Development Corporation.

INSURANCE: AA Mutual Life Assurance, Hoskens, Old Mutual Insurance


PROPERTY: Dorsic Holdings (part of AECI), Plateglass Inds., Sumcor Property Inv. Corp (part of Nedbank), Tuckers Land Hldgs.,


OTHER SECONDARY MANUFACTURING: Fintec, (50% owned by Busch-Jaeger Elektro GmbH-FDR), A.M. Behr, AJF Eigelaar, Malbak.


FOOD, DRINK ETC: Bakers SA., Hansen & Dent, South African Breweries, Picardi Inv.,

OTHER CONSUMER GOODS: Seardel Inv. Corp., Protea Hldgs.,
United Kingdom (Britain) Investment

Rio Tinto Zinc Ltd., Britain's largest mining multinational, has a 53% interest in Rossing Uranium (valued at approximately £200m.) - the largest single investment in Namibia and the largest uranium mine in the world. Uranium from Rossing is supplied to British Nuclear Fuels (owned by the British Government) as part of a Rossing Uranium-Central Electricity Generating Board contract for nearly 50% of British uranium need, as well as for re-export to undisclosed customers in other Western countries. Charter Consolidated, the UK-registered arm of Anglo-American, has major links with Kiln Products (which owns SWACO). (See South African section). Consolidated Goldfields of the UK, via its 49% associate company. Goldfields of South Africa Ltd., has a holding in Kiln Products, which is involved in zinc mining and processing through ZINCOR (see South Africa section).

Trade:

Britain has always published separate trade statistics for Namibia - a point to be taken up with customs policy makers in other countries that do not (e.g. France, and West Germany). All Namibia's gem diamonds are sold through the London-based Central Selling Organisation, a de Beers-controlled monopoly; and the largest share of re-exports then go to the U.S.A., but also to Tel Aviv, Antwerp, Amsterdam, Bombay, Puerto Rico, etc. for cutting. Only 200 or so of de Beers approved buyers are allowed to participate. Nearly 50% of British Nuclear Fuels uranium supplies come secretly from Rossing, at present via France, and are either stockpiled or used by the state electricity board, the GEB. Strict security surrounds its importation. Lead products are sold to international customers via the London office, Tsumeb Sales Ltd. Canned fish, mainly pilchards, are imported primarily under the "Glenryck" and "Puffin" brands - registered brands of Federale Marine Ltd., the South African marketing agency for fish products. Karakul pelts are sold under the "SWAKARA" label at five auctions a year by two auction companies, Hudson's Bay & Annings, and Eastwood & Holt; mainly to French, West German and Italian buyers in the fashion market. Harrop Bros.'s subsidiaries, Sirdar Wools (Pvt) Ltd. and SW Yarns purchase unprocessed Namibian wool. A.C. Young & Co., Grand Metropolitan, Lonrho, Wood Hall Trust.

Shipping, Freightage, Transport & Storage

Clan Lines, Union Castle and other major lines are members of the S/SE Africa Conference, and have regular sailings from Walvis Bay. Crosby House Group, Ellerman Lines, Rennies Consolidated (based in Hong Kong). Reed International.
OTHER
FINANCE, BANKING & INSURANCE: British financial groups dominate clearing institutions in Namibia. Barclays Bank Ltd. operates 22 branches, 90 agencies and is expanding – it recently opened a branch in war-ridden northern fortress of Ondangwa, with a ceremony including Bantustan officials. Standard Chartered Banking Groups also has many branches via its South African associate. Barclays and Standard hold 70% of all bank deposits in Namibia (R230m) and both transferred 15% of their deposits to South Africa during 1978. South Africa’s biggest British lender, the Hill Samuel Group helped finance the Kunene River project. During 1978, over R50m. was withdrawn from Namibia by “identifiable banking and building societies”, and a further R20m. by March 1979, a more subtle way of depleting Namibia’s resources. Lloyds of London offered quotes to insure Windhoek City Council’s entire 1980 portfolio worth over R100m. Other British insurance companies operating in Namibia include Norwich Union, Legal and General, Commercial Union, Eagle Star, General Accident, Edward Lumley Holdings, Guardian Royal Exchange, Aegis, Bowring, M & G, Minet Holdings, Provident, Sun Alliance (via Protea Assurance-RSA). Other financial and administrative services include Anglo African Industries, Thomas Cook (Midland Bank), Tozer Kembley and Millbourne, Aurora Holdings, Crellon Holdings, Grovewood Securities, Securicor, Sedgewick-Forbes Holdings, Stenhouse Holdings.

FUEL: British Petroleum Ltd., controlled by the U.K. Government, and Shell Transport and Trading Co., based in the U.K., own refineries (Shell and BPSS Ltd.), many distribution depots, and have joint prospecting ventures (B.P. Development Co. and Shell Exploration SWA).

MINING AND RELATED: Alpine Holdings, BICC (via Balfour Beatty), Lead Industries Group.

CONSTRUCTION: Acrow Inds., Lead Industries Group, George Wimpey and Sons Ltd. have a wholly owned subsidiary doing road works and Davy Corporation Ltd’s wholly owned subsidiary, Power Gas Ltd. has done mine construction work for Rossing as well as running Davy Contractors and a branch of U.S. affiliate McKee International. Other British construction firms include 600 Group, Taylor Woodrow, Balfour Beatty, SGB.

ENGINEERING AND EQUIPMENT: APV, Associated Engineering, Airwork (British & Commonwealth Shipping), Chloride, GKN, Lucas Industries, Smiths Industries, Wm Bain (Trafalgar House), Delta Metal/McKechnie Bros. Babcock & Wilcox Ltd. wholly own Triplejay Equipment of Windhoek. Blackwood Hodge Ltd. have a branch dealing in earth-moving equipment in Windhoek. British Leyland have distribution and maintenance outlets. BOC International (oxygen) own 67% of Africa Oxygen Ltd., which has a branch in Windhoek. British Steel Corp’s Stewarts and Lloyds have a Windhoek workshop. Mitchell Cotts Group Ltd. own 80% of the Reinforcing Steel Co. in Windhoek as well as having
interests in property, transportation, shipping, commerce and in a joint venture with General Electric (U.S.).


UNITED STATES INVESTMENT

AMAX and Newmont Mining Co. each hold 29.6% of the Tsumeb Corp. Ltd. (TCL) which runs mines at Tsumeb (copper, zinc, silver), Kombat (copper, lead), Matchless (copper), and Assis Ost mines and copper and lead smelters. TCL is Namibia's largest employer of labour and the range of minerals produced is considerable. The Tsumeb plant also takes copper ore from Oamites for refining. Newmont have the management contract for TCL and other shareholders include British Petroleum, Gencor, Anglos and O'kiep (itself part owned by Amax and Newmont). TCL itself has a 20% interest in the Anglovaal subsidiary, African Triangle, and has two exploration subsidiaries in which SWACO have a shareholders interest. Bethlehem Steel (60%) and Nord Mining (40%) share control of the Krantsberg tungsten and tin mine via Edco Mining and Exploration Corp. (60%) and Nord Mining and Exploration Co. (40%) respectively, have a joint prospect with J.C.I. (S.A.) at the Gorab Copper Mine, with Aquitaine of France at Kojeka (known as Nord Joint Venture Ltd.), with Vendome SA (French) in a silver and copper mine; and Nord separately are involved with J.C.I. at Otjihase. Zapata Corporation, via the 93% owned Granby Mining Corporation of Canada, operates a copper mine at Onganja (formerly Zapata wholly owned it through Nacarro Exploration Co.)

Prospecting companies include Phelps Dodge at Outjo, Newmont (diamonds) Union Carbide (who also sell batteries), Western Nuclear Corporation, Getty Oil (for diamonds), Hanna Mining, Marcona, and, formerly, several oil companies.

TRADE

Since 1976 the U.S. has published separate trade statistics for Namibia, which show blister copper, silver and germanium dioxide imported from Tsumeb. It is now reported that Namibian uranium destined for Japan is processed in the U.S.A.

SHIPPING

Farell Lines, Lykes Bros., and Moore-McCormack Ltd are members of the U.S./S & S.E. Africa Conference and operate regular services calling at Walvis Bay.

MARKETING

New York is one of the world's major diamond cutting centres, and receives diamonds via London from Namibia. Del Monte markets canned pilchards from Namibia.
OTHER

FINANCE, BANKING & INSURANCE: Bank America, Continental Corp. Chase Manhattan & First National City Bank reportedly financed Rossing as part of a consortium and have provided South African Government loans.

EMPLOYEE SECURITY AND VETTING: Sears Roebuck.

OIL EXPLORATION: Conoco (owns Tidewater Oil Co. along with Getty Oil (US) and Phillips Petroleum (US) and 35% of Tidal Diamonds (with de Beers). Milford Argosy, Standard Oil of California - Chevron - (owns Regent Petroleum), Superior Oil (took over the Etosha oil companies from Breilund - also owns 48% of Falconbridge (Canadian). MINING AND PROSPECTING: Energy Minerals Corp., Fluor Corp (at Bedfordview) International Mineral and Chemical Corp (interest in Minerts), Syracuse Oil.

CONSTRUCTION: Interpublic Group, Mobil Oil, Tenneco.


RANCHING: Scientific Atlanta Inc.

MOTOR SALES AND RENTAL: Avis, Ford, Transamerica Corp.

COMMERCE & RETAILING: Caltex, Coca Cola (via M&Z), Woolworths (via Truworths R.S.A.)

DRUGS AND COSMETICS: Bristol-Myers, Wellcome Foundation.

ENGINEERING: Arthur McKee, a subsidiary of U.K. Davy Corp. did engineering work on Rossing as did Interspace Ltd.

Compiled by B.E. Bolton:
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