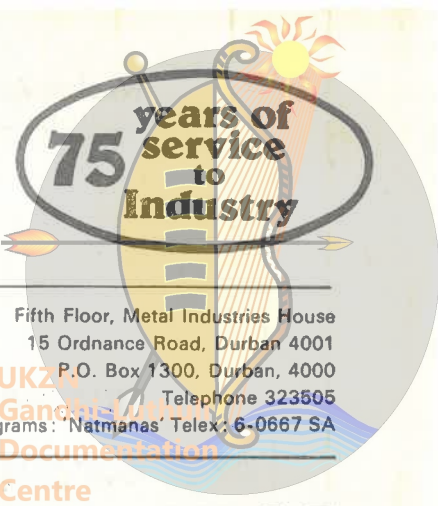


# Natal Chamber of Industries Weekly Bulletin



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*Miss Doyle*  
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## NATIONAL KEY POINTS ACT

The National Key Points Bill passed rapidly through both Houses prior to the adjournment of Parliament and is now on the Statute Book.

The main provisions of this new legislation is that the Minister of Defence can declare a 'place' (which includes an industrial complex) to be a National Key Point because its loss or immobilisation may be prejudicial to the Republic or threaten its safety. The owner of the key point is then required to take steps to satisfy the Minister in regard to the security of the area. If necessary, the Minister will issue an order in this context and failure to comply will result in substantial penalties.

Furthermore, the Minister may order any person to furnish him with information in regard to any place or area, and here again failure to comply with the order, or disclosure of the same information to any other persons, will attract heavy penalties.

In addition to the more obvious examples of key points such as oil refineries, heavy chemical industries, certain engineering works, action in terms of the Act may well encompass a large number of other manufacturing establishments and the implications of the legislation for the industrial sector are correspondingly wide.

Regulations published under the Act may be expected to cover, inter alia, the appointment of guards and their powers (including the power of search) in respect of the security of key points, and also the financial aid, if any, for the owner of a National Key Point in relation to steps taken to meet the security requirements stipulated by the Minister.

At this stage it is not known what will be the policy in regard to the granting of financial assistance and in the Chamber's view, and bearing in mind that key points are to be established in the national interest, it would seem reasonable that the State should meet the full cost of any security requirements which are over and above those levels normally considered to be adequate for the type of Industry involved.

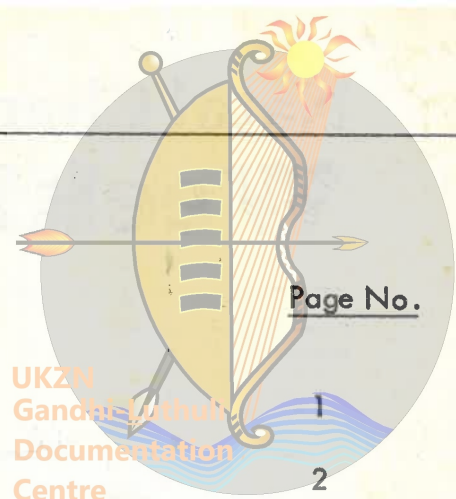
R.V.F.

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