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By GEOFFREY ALLEN

Sasol to be paid millions

AN insurance claim which could top R6-million for damages and loss caused by the sabotage of the Sasol and Natref plants this week will be paid by a special Government-backed company which was started specifically to deal with terrorist attacks.

The South African Special Risks Insurance Association (Sasria) was established on April 1 1979 to offer unique cover against damage caused through political or terrorist acts.

Commercial insurance houses do not cover clients under these conditions.

Sasria was set up as a result of the nationwide 1976 schools riots when insurance companies found they could not offer comprehensive protection to clients for politically motivated damage.

Together with the Government, insurance men thrashed out the new policies to be offered by Sasria over a period of three years.

Under normal insurance regulations claims for damage caused in a "declared" war are dealt with by a Government war-damages

fund, and political and terrorist acts are not provided for.

A spokesman for a company which acts as insurance broker for Sasol said that there was an agreement between brokers and clients not to discuss specific claims.

"In this sort of case the material damage is obviously easily determined, but it is possible that it could take some time to establish the loss of profits and business caused by the explosions."

The Sasol/Natref claim is expected to be the biggest the association has yet paid out.

Total claims have not yet been formulated, but figures so far released by Sasol indicate that apart from the profit and business losses, the bomb damage to fuel storage tanks and loss of products in the subsequent fires will total R5,6-million.

The spokesman said that Sasol/Natref were still "busy with a detailed assessment of losses and is examining the insurance position"

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