

Bron  
nr.  
Q 121 3

Datum  
9.8.99.24.26.7

Onderwerp  
nr.  
8

Knipsel  
nr.  
9631

The Star

Jg..... Nr..... P. 10 Dat. 24 SEP 1998

# Insurance doubts as Maseru is looted

**RICHARD STOVIN-BRADFORD**

BANKING EDITOR

Johannesburg — Local retailers facing mounting anti-South African sentiment in Lesotho have also been caught in cross-fire between insurers on the home front as doubt grows whether the retailers are covered for their losses.

"Our cover doesn't extend beyond the borders of South Africa," said Mike Strydom, the chief executive officer of Sasria, which normally covers

such risks locally. "Sasria is not involved to any degree in Lesotho, and the risks are in any event uninsurable."

The Lesotho crisis came to a head as Pretoria was eyeing R6 billion in funds tied up in Sasria with a view to seizing them through the proposed Conversion of Sasria Act.

The South African Insurance Association, which represents most major local insurers, could not comment on the Lesotho crisis yesterday. But insurers are expected to invoke

war, invasion, insurrection and rebellion risk exclusion clauses to avoid paying out retailers.

The arrival of the South African troops in Lesotho triggered an outpouring of anti-South African feeling, resulting in the looting and destruction of many retail outlets owned or franchised by companies such as Shoprite Checkers, Woolworths, Edgar's, Pep and McCarthy Retail.

One retailer said it was up to insurers and business to approach the Pretoria govern-

ment for aid because South African shops had not been targeted before the incursion.

Andre Labuschagne, Pep Stores' managing director, said: "We've lost four shops, and my gut feeling is they (the insurers) will say it's a war."

Brian Clouston, the company secretary of McCarthy Retail, whose BG and Smart Centre stores were burnt down, said: "The mood the insurance industry seems to be taking is that this is a war, invasion, insurrection and rebellion."

TREFWOORDE

1 Business Rep.

2 Adeline

3 Lesotho

4 Commentaar

5 Lesotho

6 Lesotho

7 Lesotho

8 Lesotho

9

10