

cent Supreme Court ruling giving states wider latitude in restricting abortions is a little different than that in more populated regions.

While people in urban areas are "wondering if it will be tough to get an abortion," said Dr. Damon Stutes, whose Reno clinic serves all of northern Nevada and much of eastern California, "we're wondering if it's going to get even tougher."

According to the Alan Guttmacher

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to President Kennedy's trip to West Berlin in 1963. But Mr. Bush's delicately balanced message — he talked about the need for world leaders "to forge a rare alloy of courage and restraint" — did not quite have the same infectious, passionate ring as "Ich bin ein Berliner."

Some White House officials speculated that it was the weight of so much change in a country accustomed to ravaged hopes that gave the

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retorical formulations.

'Symbolic of Our Support'

"Nobody in this country had any illusions that the stream of gold would flow," the spokesman said. "We did not expect alms or handouts. But while we are very much satisfied with the political tone of the visit, the substance is somewhat limited."

A senior American official, who asked not to be identified, said that Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish

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Agence France-Presse

Conservation workers in the Damaraland region of Namibia about to dehorn a black rhinoceros to destroy its value to poachers and thereby save the animal's life.

Namibia Cuts Rhinos' Horns to Thwart Poachers

By JANE PERLEZ

Special to The New York Times

PALMWAG, Namibia — Trying a new tactic to conserve one of Africa's most endangered species, the Namibian wildlife authorities have cut off the horns of black rhinoceroses that roam the remote red-gravel desert here. The goal is to discourage poachers who sell the horns for tens of thousands of dollars apiece.

For the last several years, these majestic plains and riverbeds, surrounded by flat-topped basalt mesas and conical hills strewn with rocks, have harbored the only rhinoceros population in the African wild that has increased rather than decreased.

But when 5 of the 100 or so rhinocer-

oses in this parched region known as Damaraland were poached at the beginning of this year, the Namibian Directorate of Nature Conservation decided to dehorn the animals, a step that had been widely debated but never taken in other parts of Africa.

The value of rhinoceros horn on the black markets of Asia, where it is reputed to have medicinal powers, particularly in enhancing male sexual potency, and in Yemen, where it is coveted for daggers, has made the rhinoceros the ultimate quarry of poachers, far outstripping elephant tusk as an illegal prize.

"The dehorning of the black rhinoceros is a drastic step," said Brian Jones, an official of the directorate.

"But there seems to be a new wave of poaching, and we decided, because of the desperate situation, that this action had to be taken."

The rhinoceros horns are used in mating, in fights with one another, in defense against other animals and to browse.

Because of these various uses, some conservationists argue that dehorning might be detrimental to the animal. In

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Shimon Peres, seated at center under flags, voting yesterday in Jerusalem with other Labor Party officials to recommend that the party leave the coalition with Likud.

Agence France-Presse

held in the present political climate.

But even if no compromise is reached on the terms Labor officials described today, if the party's performance in the coalition negotiation last fall is any example, Labor might waver over whether to stay in the Government before the process begins today comes to a close.

If the Government is dissolved, in theory Labor or Likud could try to form a narrow coalition government with smaller political parties. But a part of the present coalition agreement, both big parties agreed that they would not do that and would call for new elections instead.

It is clear that most people in the

Namibia Cuts Rhinoceroses' Horns to Protect Herd From Poachers

Continued From Page 1

Zimbabwe, for example, David Cumming, the director of a World Wildlife Fund project there, said dehorning had been considered but discounted as a way of saving the black rhinoceros from increased poaching because a horn was fundamental to the animal's ability to browse through the thick Zimbabwean underbrush.

Independence a Factor

In addition to concern about poaching simply for money, conservationists said the action was also prompted by the fear that as Namibia gains independence from South Africa, white farmers, resentful of a black majority government, would leave the country and poach rhinoceroses as a last defiant gesture. Namibia, the territory long known as South-West Africa, has been ruled by South Africa for more than 70 years and has begun a transition to independence under United Nations supervision.

About 3,500 black rhinoceroses are estimated to remain in Africa, the bulk of them inside game parks in Zimbabwe and South Africa. Small numbers survive under protection in Kenya and Tanzania.

In the early 1980's, when aggressive poaching began to reduce the continent's rhinoceros population, said to be 65,000 in 1976, the black rhinoceros was classified as an endangered species by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Despite the classification, a step intended to halt the trade in rhinoceros horn, the trade has flourished and prices have risen, conservationists say.

The black rhinoceros, like the white rhinoceros, is a pale, whitish gray. But unlike the white rhinoceros, which grazes on grassland with a mouth that functions much like a vacuum cleaner, the black browses on shrubs and bushes with a prehensile lip.

\$18,000 a Kilogram

Esmond Bradley-Martin, a Kenyan expert on the rhinoceros, said that African rhinoceros horn, which like a human fingernail consists of densely packed hair with keratin, is fetching \$18,000 a kilogram in Taiwan. A horn can weigh 4 or 5 kilograms, or about 10 pounds.

The sawed-off horns have been stock-

piled in an undisclosed place, kept secret for fear of theft.

The dehorning in Damaraland, where the black rhinoceros has adapted to the harsh environment along with rare desert elephants, pale coffee-colored springboks, ostriches and zebras, was done over a three-week period last month. In an effort to further ward off the poachers, the Directorate of Nature Conservation has tried to create the impression that all of the 100 or so rhinoceroses were dehorned. Officially, the number has not been disclosed.

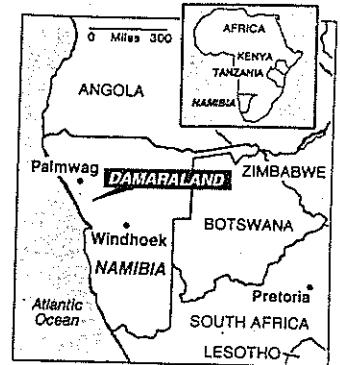
But nongovernmental conservationists involved in the effort, which used tractors, trucks and a helicopter, said about 12 had been dehorned in an operation that, for each animal, took about 25 minutes after anesthetizing. Each animal's two horns, which arc skyward one behind the other above

the mouth, were sawed off and the base filed down. The animal's ears were tagged for monitoring purposes and another drug was administered to wake it up.

Described as Last Resort

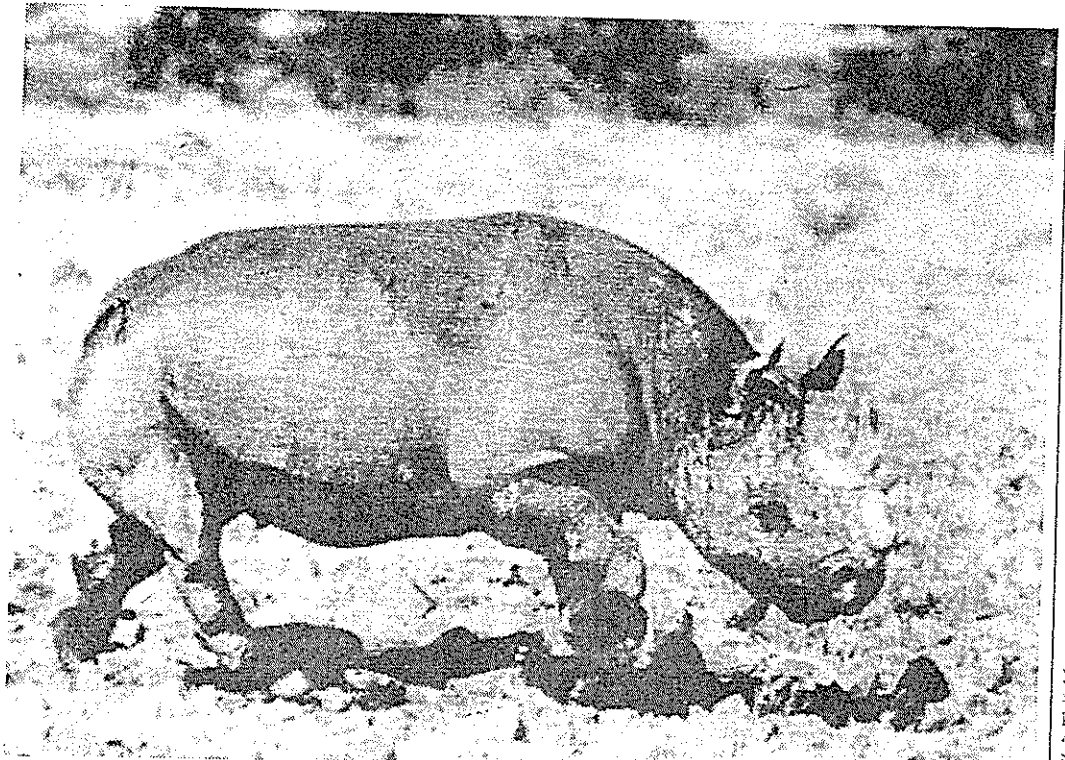
"We're going to have to monitor to see what effects there are on their social life," Mr. Jones said. "The horn is used for fighting between bulls for females. We'll have to see the effect on that."

Blythe Loutit, the founder of the Save the Rhino Trust Fund in Namibia, is confident that the hornless rhinoceros will fare well. She described dehorning as a last resort after her organization had failed to raise funds to hire more game guards and purchase a light plane that would have been used for observation against poachers.



The New York Times/July 11, 1989

Damaraland harbors the only rhinoceros population in the African wild that has increased.



A black rhinoceros after it was dehorned by conservation workers in Namibia.

The New York Times/Dirk Heinrich