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Fulmer and Africa

It is likely that a great many members will be strongly opposed to Fulmer operating in South Africa. Since Fulmer is owned by The Institute of Physics (i.e. ultimately by the membership) it would be quite wrong for Fulmer to take such a controversial step without proper consultation through a ballot. It would be easy to conduct such a ballot through a printed form in Physics Bulletin, and I urgently suggest that the Institute does so. We cannot afford the resignation of a substantial fraction of our members, which I am sure would be the result of Fulmer going into South Africa without a proper mandate.

The Executive Secretary replies:

As a result of recent correspondence, the Board of Fulmer Research Institute has considered the nature of its involvement in South Africa. The following statement was submitted by the Board to Council, which has authorised its publication in Physics Bulletin.

Fulmer policy in South Africa

Fulmer has been carrying out research and development work for South African companies since 1947. Most of this work has been related to the improvement of materials operating under the severe conditions of deep mining operations. This is therefore a contribution to the safety of mining activity. The office which Fulmer has in Johannesburg is essential to maintain liaison. It has two employees. No defence-related work or any activity concerned with internal security has been carried out. Fulmer's activities in South Africa are thus fully in accord with the European Code of Conduct for trading activities with that country.