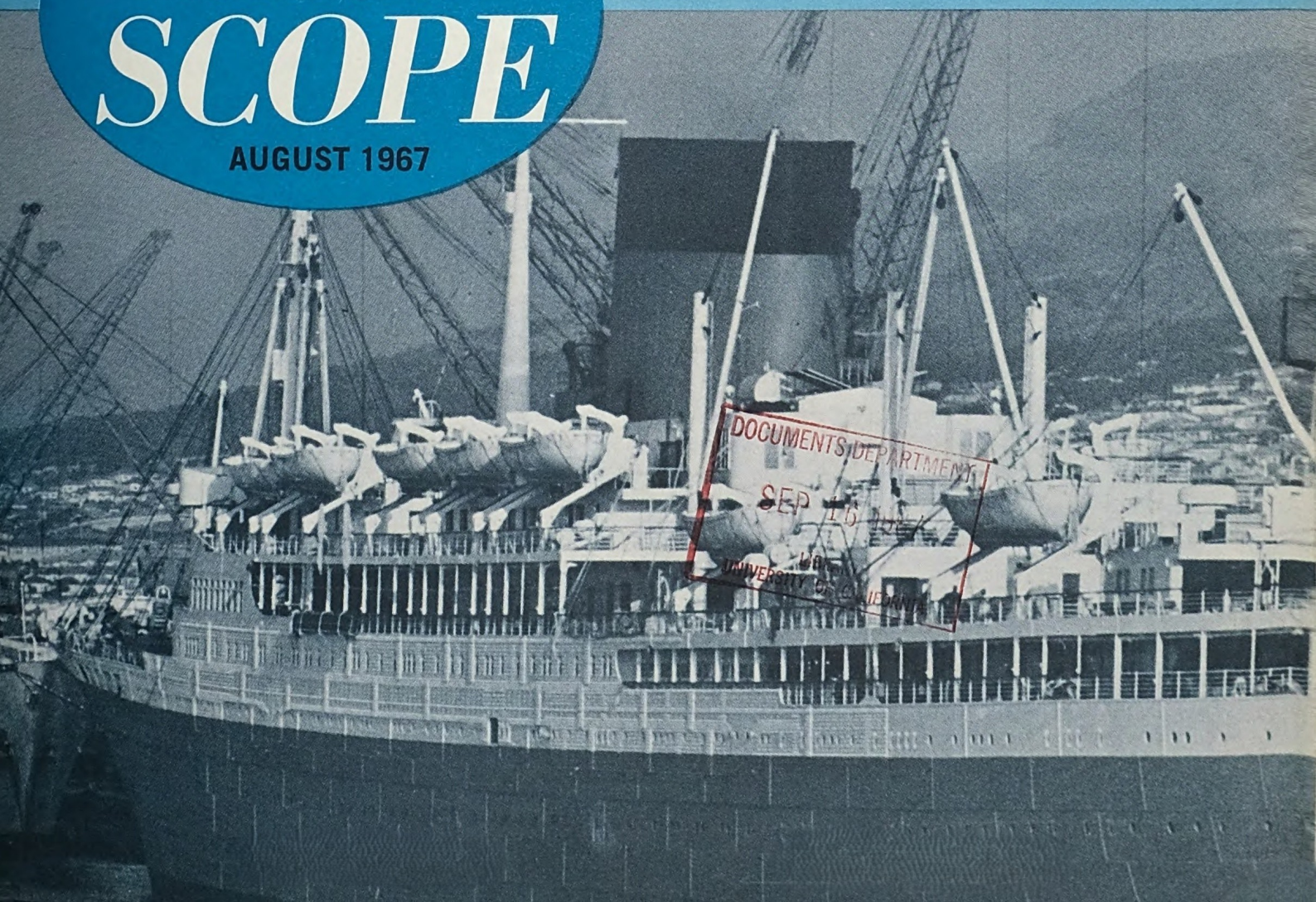




SOUTH AFRICAN SCOPE

AUGUST 1967

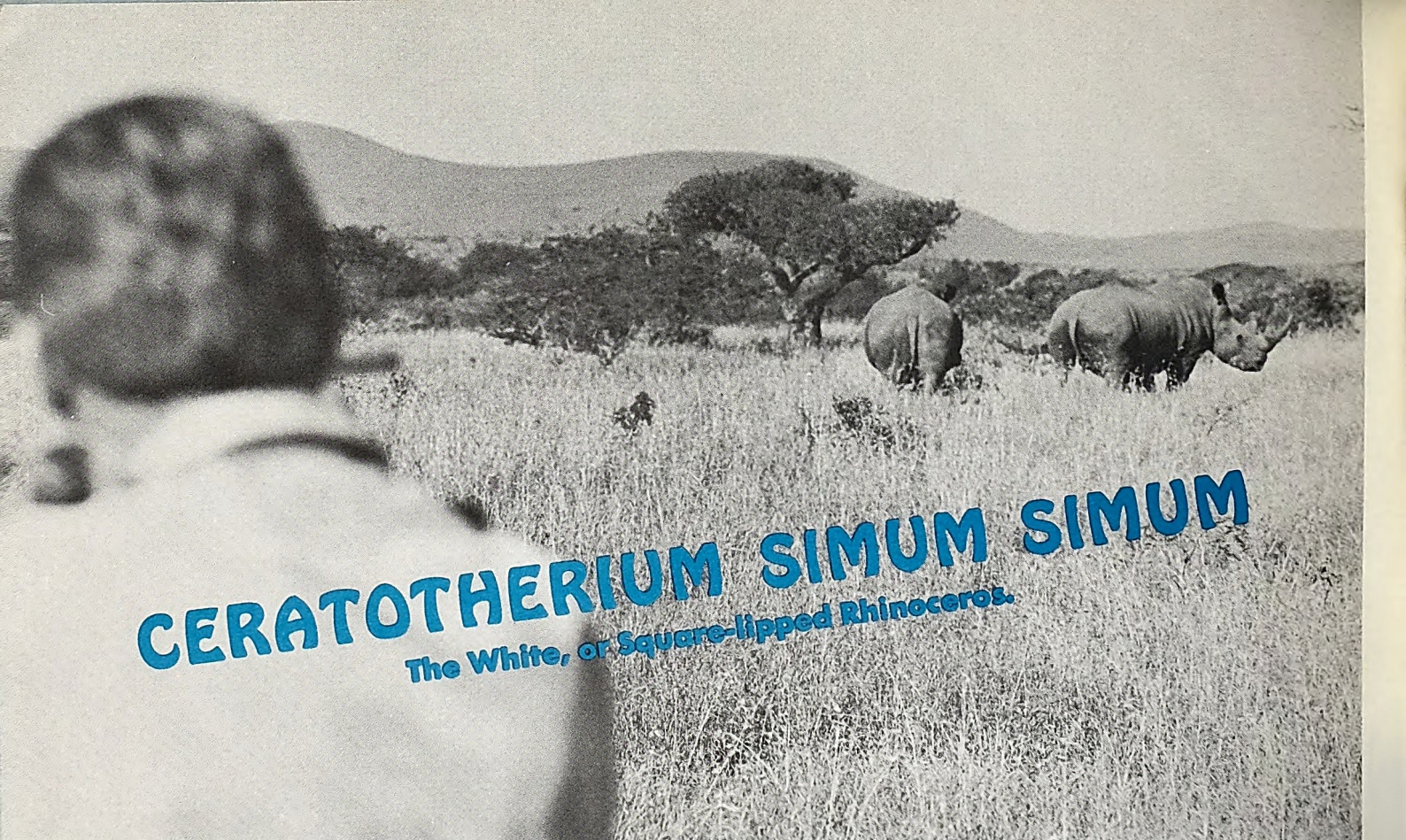
Harbor activity around the tip of South Africa continues to boom as ships from all nations divert from the impassable Suez to the southern route.



DOCUMENTS DEPARTMENT

SEP 16 1967

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CERATOTHERIUM SIMUM SIMUM

The White, or Square-lipped Rhinoceros.

Rangers roam the Umfolozi Game Preserve searching for suitable rhinoceroses. When a suitable specimen is cornered, a paralyzing drug is shot into its thick hide.

Maybe it was 75-million years ago, maybe even before that time . . . a monstrosity started trampling the earth, huge elongated head low to the ground, horn—a danger to whomsoever came into its lumbering path.

YELLOWISH-BROWN IN COLOR, often obscured by the color of the mud in which it likes to wallow, eyes light chestnut brown, upper lip broad and square, and an anterior horn situated rather far forward so that the front of the horn is level with the upper lip: this is the white rhino—not to be confused with the black rhinoceros, as it usually is twice as big, much slower, more amiable, more of a grazer and, besides, misses the small, pointed prehensile upper lip of the black rhino.

The white rhino originally extended over large areas of Africa but has been exterminated within memory in all parts except an area between the Black and White Umfolozi Rivers in Zululand and the Lado enclave (Sudan), north of the equator, where, however, it is considered a different sub-species.

By the turn of the century its number had fallen to below 40 in Natal; by 1933, after more than a decade of intensive protection, some 200 remained. In 1960 upwards of 600 were counted.

It is ironical to note that today's abundance of white rhino in the Umfolozi-Hluhluwe areas is ecologically dangerous, as the delicate balance of nature may be disturbed—



Some 20 minutes after the dart has struck home the rhino slumps down, paralyzed but awake. Two c.c. of the drug M 99 can bring down a 5,000 lbs. animal.

that is, to put it plainly, the white rhino may eat itself out of a home. In fact, the optimum capacity of Umfolozi would be about half the present population. About 730 rhinos remain here, with 75 at Hluhluwe. More than 300 have been moved out—100 to the Kruger National Park, where they are breeding well, several to smaller preserves in the Republic, scores to zoos around the world, including Russia, United States and Kenya. Nevertheless the natural annual increase of about 80—more than can be disposed of—poses a problem of overpopulation.

A few areas remain to be repopulated. Some 60 rhinos have gone to Rhodesia, compliments of a number of big South African companies who footed the bill; four (so far) have gone to Botswana, presented by the South African Prime Minister as a gesture of goodwill.

The future of the white rhino seems to be assured. In two generations their numbers have been brought back—even to embarrassingly high proportions. Thanks go to the personnel of the Natal Parks Board in the first place, and other bodies and individuals who have concerned themselves with the conservation and redistribution of this valuable species.

SCOOP FOR PRETORIA ZOO:

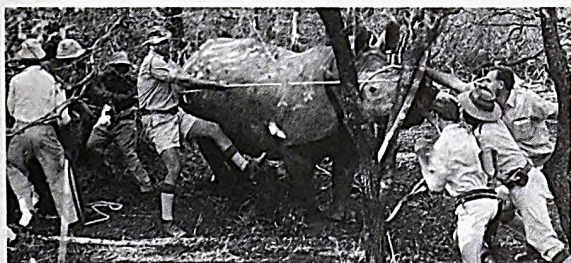


THE FIRST WHITE RHINO CALF to be born in any zoo was born on June 8, 1967, in the Pretoria Zoo. The birth took place in the new rhino enclosure which resembles as closely as possible the natural surroundings of these animals. This probably contributed considerably to the success of the birth as the mother was able to find a secluded spot where she was not disturbed.

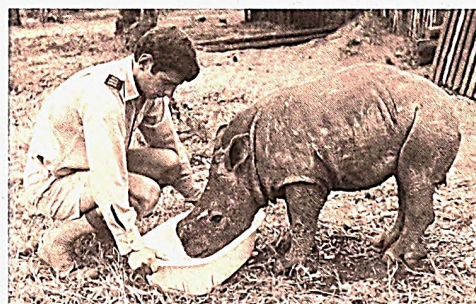
The baby weighed between 100 and 120 lbs. at birth and was about the size of a sheep. It is interesting to note that its pads are far larger, proportionately, than those of the adult rhino.



A veterinary surgeon examines the rhino for wounds and injuries, and gives it an injection to revive it slightly prior to loading.



A great deal of manpower is necessary to manhandle the beast into the crate.



A calf responds to friendly treatment . . .



. . . in fact, it seems to be quite at home in the ranger's house.



Trucks get underway to Botswana with their valuable cargo.