

WITNESS 26/10/86

# Fairest Cape

THE decision by the organisers of the Whitbread round-the-world yacht race to drop Cape Town as a port of call may seem but a small thread in the blanket of sports isolation that covers the Republic, but it runs deep. Since seafarers first fought their way round Africa, the Cape has stood as a great landmark, a safe and marvellously lovely haven; and for many South Africans the Cape is the land in which their culture first took root. It is almost inconceivable that a sailor circumnavigating the globe should not call at the Cape, yet that is now the reality. The people of this sub-continent have contrived to turn their fairest Cape into the foulest Cape, and the cleansing of it will not be easy.

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