

# Springbok ocean yacht gets go-ahead

**T**HERE will definitely be a Springbok yacht sailing in next year's great single-handed transatlantic race from Plymouth to New York. Work will begin at once on the construction of the sleek 50-ft. racer without waiting for the outcome of the nation-wide campaign to raise R45,000 for the Springbok Ocean-racing Trust.

This has become possible by the co-operation of the Rembrandt Group of Companies, who last week agreed to finance the building of the yacht pending the raising of funds from the public.

The gesture will mean that the fund-raising campaign will be galvanized by the knowledge that a no-holds-barred, magnificently-equipped entry is assured.

The finances of the venture are controlled by a panel of trustees headed by the chief of the South African Navy, Vice-Admiral H. H. Biermann.

The trustees will now be able to sign the building contract before the end of this month, without having to keep an eye on the progress of the national fund.

## STRONG HULLS

The Knysna firm of Thesens, who have been building small craft and small ships since the family landed at the town in 1859, will build the Springbok challenger.

In the past few years they have specialized in the light-weight-glued-laminate construction called for by the ocean-racer's designer, Ricus van de Stadt, of Zeendam near Amsterdam.

They have just finished three 30-knot anti-poacher launches for the Department of Fisheries, with immensely strong hulls made from three thin skins of wood glued together as required in the transatlantic yacht.

## CAMPAIGN GOES ON

Meanwhile, all over South Africa, the campaign continues to raise R45,000 to finance the race entry next year and to establish the Springbok Ocean-Racing Trust, whose long-term target is to ensure continued participation in international yachting events after the Single-handed Race is over.

One hundred prominent yachtsmen in South Africa, as well as leading business houses, have been asked to contribute R400 or more; but ordinary folk may send whatever they feel they can afford. Everything is welcome.

Cheques should be made out in favour of the Springbok Ocean-Racing Trust and sent to the Trustees, Springbok Ocean-Racing Trust, P. O. Box 3473, Cape Town.