S.A.A.F. ASKED TO SEARCH FOR MISSING RIO YACHT

By a Staff Reporter

Organisers of the Cape-to-Rio international yacht race have asked for a full-scale search to be launched for the 15.2 m Durban ketch Wayfarer which has been battling for five days to reach Cape Town.

Liaison officer for the organisers, Mr. Gerhard Reut, said the afternoon that a decision to call for a thorough search was made after reports of continuous sea- and increasing gale force winds along the Southern Cape coast.

Cape Town's Port Operations Centre, Bob Harding, has been asked to call out long-range aircraft of the Maritime Command to cover the coast between Cape Point and Cape Agulhas—the Wayfarer's last positive point of identification.

Ships alert

If the normal port ship procedure is followed Cape Town Radio will keep a general all ships alert signal.

This will then that all shipping along the southern Cape coast will be asked to keep a look out for a yacht fitting the description of the Durban ketch.

A charter aircraft with an Argus reporter and photographer aboard spent 54 hours in the air today searching along the coast as far as Cape Agulhas.

Forced to land

The aircraft, which was unable to locate the Wayfarer, was eventually forced to land at Groenendal after exhausting its fuel supply.

Gale were so rough off the South Western Cape coast that crew members of the trawler Kingsman, which went out today to an attempt to assist the Wayfarer, in tow, sailed their skipper to return to port.

The 31 m trawler, which is the coast powerful fishing vessel on the Southern Cape coast, was concerned to take the Wayfarer in tow in a dramatic tie to get it to Cape Town in time for the Cape Town to Cape-to-Rio race tomorrow afternoon.