

Vorster will watch start

Cape Times Reporters

THE Prime Minister, Mr. Vorster, members of the Cabinet, top provincial executives and mayors of leading cities in South Africa will watch the start of the Cape-to-Rio race at 4.30 p.m. on Saturday.

Mr. Vorster will be on board the frigate SAS President Kruger with the Chief of the Navy and president of the Cruising Association of South Africa, Vice-Admiral H. H. Biermann, as the vessel lies in Table Bay with four other warships.

These will include the fleet replenishment ship Tafelberg,

which will accompany the yachts most of the way across the South Atlantic before handing over her guardship duties to two Brazilian warships about 1600 km (1000 miles) from Rio.

Mayors who will see the start include those of Durban, Germiston and Springs, each of which has an official entry. The race will be started by the Mayor of Cape Town, Dr. Jan Dommisse, from the starting vessel—the minesweeper Moselbaai.

Other VIPs will include Mr. Gerry Ferry, who as Mayor of Cape Town two years ago pre-

sided over the meeting at which the Cape-to-Rio project was launched.

Cabinet Ministers present near the starting line in Granger Bay will include the Minister of Finance, Dr. Diederichs, and the Minister of National Education, Senator Van der Spuy.

ONE of the most striking features of the pre-race preparations is the extraordinary degree of co-operation and goodwill all along the line. Take the case of the Knysna yacht Albatros II, which blew

out her storm spinnaker in a vicious gale off False Bay in passage to the starting point.

Crewman Brian Lello, one of the two-man team who will report on the seaward side of the race for the *Cape Times*, said yesterday that with the co-operation of the Anglo-American firm of Hoods, the sailmakers at Lymington in England, and of South African Airways, a newly-made spinnaker arrived in Cape Town exactly one week after he ordered it telephonically.

"They told me at Hood's that they would start work on the new sail within half an hour of my 'phoning. They finished the sail on the afternoon of the second day—and fantastic initiative on the part of SA Airways ensured prompt delivery in spite of strikes, foul weather and other obstacles."

THREE Roman Catholic priests, Father J. Baird, Father Eddie Mansfield and Father D. Curran, the port chaplain, will conduct a celebrated Mass at SAS Unities at 7 a.m. on Saturday, after which yachts in the race will be blessed before sailing.