



## Computers 19.1.71 keep tabs on the yachts

**T**HE MASS of complex information received daily on the positions of the Cape-to-Rio race yachts is sorted out in a mere 10 minutes by Mr. Mike Viljoen's computers.

Mr. Viljoen, 26, director of a programming firm, stays behind after work each day to prepare the position reports.

"The frigate SAS Tafelberg receives from each yacht its co-ordinates—its position at 16.00 GMT (4 p.m. South African time).

"This data is collected at maritime headquarters, Young's Field, and telexed to us on a perforated paper tape."

### SIMILAR PAPER

At his Woodstock office Mr. Viljoen receives a similar paper tape containing such information as the fleet numbers of the yachts, their longitude and latitude, which he feeds into a computer.

"I calculate the distance of each yacht from Rio, and its map references. By updating the positions from day to day, I can calculate their positions on handicap, taking into account their time-correction factors.

"If there are no snags, the whole operation takes 10 minutes."

19.1.71

Inspecting a computerized position report of the Cape-to-Rio race are (left) Mr. Gordon Burn Wood, chairman of the race committee; (right, background) Mr. Mike Viljoen, director of the computer programming firm producing the reports; (right, centre) Mr. Charles Mouat, member of the race committee; and Mr. Doug Percival, timekeeper at the start of the race, who helps with the programming.