

# Navy to back SA yacht in Mil Millas regattas

Citizen Reporter

SOUTH Africa's classic ocean-racing yacht, Voortrekker II, is to have the backing of the SA Navy's replenishment vessel, the SAS Tafelberg, in the international Mil Millas yacht regattas in South American waters next month.

The Tafelberg leaves

South Africa today on an operational training cruise to South America during which 24 midshipmen and junior officers will do courses in navigation, bridge watch, seamanship and boatwork.

The cruise involves a passage through the Straits of Magellan and the ship returns to South

Africa via the Panama Canal, after a visit to Chile. There will be stopovers in Valparaiso, Talcahuano and Puerto Montit.

This follows a visit to Cape Town recently by the Chilean sail-training vessel, the Esmeralda.

Of particular interest to South African yachtsmen, is that the Tafelberg will also back up Voortrekker II, which will sail in the Mil Millas (1 000-miles) races between February 1-15.

In the five races, one of which is to Robinson Crusoe Island, west of Chile, Voortrekker II will come up against stiff opposition from official yachts of South American navies as well as a strong international field.

She will be skippered by SAN Commander Hano Teuteberg and crewed by SADF "yachties."

Participation in the Mil Millas regattas follows the win by Voortrekker II last year — then also skippered by Teuteberg — of the Cape to Portugal Diaz Race.