

# Russians seek SA order for copters

*Weekend  
Argus  
9/10/94*

## Race to supply navy P.15

■ The Russians are coming ... but not without their helicopters, if the men from Moscow have anything to do with it.

### DI CAELERS

Weekend Argus Reporter

RUSSIAN helicopters could soon be flying legitimately over South African cities if Russian specialists beat other countries in the race to provide the navy with six new machines.

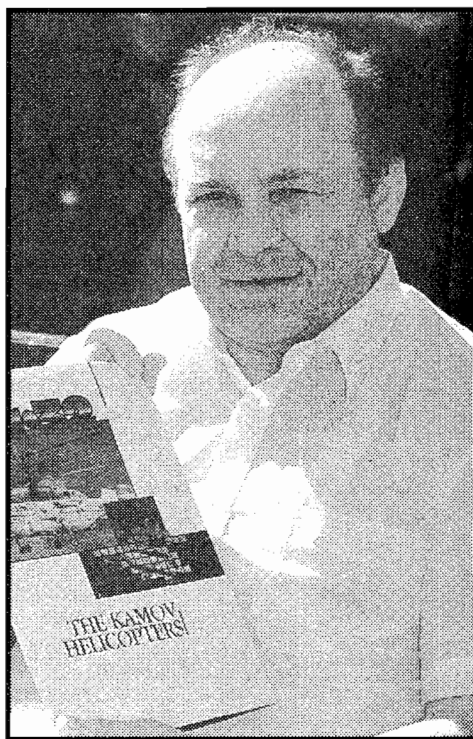
A delegation left Cape Town for Moscow yesterday after meeting naval and air force officials as well as helicopter company personnel in an effort to swing the decision in its favour.

Serguei Mikheyev, president of and general designer for the Kamov Company, told Weekend Argus his company had responded to Armscor's call for tenders for the supply of six maritime helicopters, two of which would apparently be used by the Department of Environment Affairs.

The helicopters are up against those of other countries like Britain, France and Italy but the company believes the versatility of its KA32 model will win continuing links with South Africa.

"This is a wonderful country and in many ways we are very alike. Both countries have been isolated for so long and now we are both strengthening ties with the rest of the world," Mr Mikheyev said. "It's fitting that we should forge new links between our two countries."

The Russian helicopter, based on an original design that served the Soviet



□ **MAN FROM MOSCOW:** Serguei Mikheyev, president of and general designer for Russia's state-owned Kamov Company, which supplies maritime helicopters to the Russian Navy.

Navy for 20 years, operates in temperatures between -50 degrees C and 50 degrees C, which the manufacturers believe would suit South Africa, particularly for its Antarctic interests.

The KA32 has been sold in Canada, Switzerland, South Korea, Algeria and Norway.

Commercially, the Russians also conducted talks with Court Helicopters and with Avtec in Pretoria, which they envisaged would co-operate in the supply of avionic and tactical systems for the helicopters.

The outcome of the tender will be announced at the end of next month.



Pictures: BRENTON GEACH, Weekend Argus.

□ **IN ACTION:** The Russian KA32 helicopter that a delegation from Moscow is trying to sell to the South African Navy. This model's predecessor, the KA27, was the Soviet Navy's only maritime helicopter for 20 years.