

Cape Times
18/6/76
323

Judicial inquiry

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. — The Minister of Police and of Justice, Mr Jimmy Kruger, announced in the Assembly last night that he had decided to appoint a one-man judicial commission to investigate the disturbances in Soweto.

Speaking in a special debate under the half-hour adjournment rule, the Minister said he had decided to approach the Judge-President of the Transvaal, Mr Justice Cillie, to undertake the investigation. — Sapa

The stock market is taking riots calmly

THE Johannesburg Stock Market, which has weathered Angola and the border situation, seems to be taking the Soweto riots in its stride with little selling pressure evident, although prices eased yesterday.

Stockbrokers' offices were quiet, with most investors adopting a wait and see attitude.

The market only dipped slightly yesterday when news of renewed rioting became known.

Many Cape Town brokers had more buying than selling orders on their

books, but most bids were from bargain hunters with offers pitched 5-10c below current prices.

The key gold sector eased but there was no slide with prices drifting. Losses ranged from a few cents to R1 on the higher priced shares.

In spite of the publicity the riots are receiving in Britain, London was not a large scale seller. See Page 7.

Family smuggle man to safety

JOHANNESBURG. — Mr J Beeby, a municipal pest control officer, got out of Soweto yesterday morning after being sheltered for 12 hours by a Black family after his car was stoned. The family kept him in a house during Wednesday night and smuggled him out yesterday.

He was taken to the South Rand Hospital where he was treated for cuts and abrasions.

Kruger gives riot details in Parliament

Political Staff

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. — The official toll after the first day of rioting in Soweto was 23 dead, 219 injured and large numbers of buildings and cars gutted and damaged.

Details were released by the Minister of Police, Mr Jimmy Kruger, in reply to a special question by Mr Radclyffe Cadman, the United Party's chief spokesman on race relations and justice.

After sketching how the riot started, Mr Kruger revealed the following details:

● Deaths — 23, of whom 21 were African and two White.

● Injured — 219. Of these 69 had bullet wounds, two were injured by tear gas containers and 148 were injured by the rioters.

● Buildings damaged — One hostel, nine liquor stores, two clinics, one bank, one library, one post office, two shopping centres, one community centre, two private houses.

● Buildings burnt down — 10 offices of the West Rand Bantu Administration Board, two hostels, one office of the Urban Bantu Council, six liquor stores and two schools.

● Vehicles damaged — 20 police vehicles, eight of the Bantu Administration Board and one private car. Four Putco buses and a road scraper were set on fire.

● Police injured — 11, of whom three were ad-

mitted to hospital. Two police dogs were hacked to death with pangas and burnt.

Mr Kruger said the police had acted with great self-control and with a minimum of violence throughout, in the face of the greatest defiance and provocation.

"Where firearms were used it was with due consideration to the circumstances," said Mr Kruger.

He said that when it became obvious that tear gas was not having the desired effect and that the rioters continued with greater determination, warning shots were fired.

"Where, however, it became clear that the police would be overpowered and their lives were in danger, shots were fired in self defence," said Mr Kruger.

Cape 'normal'

PENINSULA townships were quiet last night, a police spokesman said.

No additional forces had been called in as a result of the rioting in Soweto. Reports indicated that "everything is perfectly normal" in Langa, Guguletu and Nyanga. "As far as we can tell, the trouble in Soweto is isolated," the spokesman

The violence spread yesterday to neighbouring townships — and Johannesburg itself.

Police reinforcements and Army armoured cars were moved into Soweto last night after a day characterized by what Colonel J J Gerber, Divisional Inspector of Police in Soweto, called indiscriminate burning of buildings.

Colonel Gerber told Sapa that the police reinforcements included 300 men from the training centre at Groblersdal.

The trainees would help with patrol duties and so free their trained colleagues for operations to control the rioting in the township, he said.

The official death toll was put at 29 and the number of wounded at 224 by General H W Kotze, Witwatersrand Divisional Commissioner of Police.

If the pattern of events continued the toll could be higher.

Early yesterday, as dawn broke, police discovered 17 corpses, bringing the death toll at the start of the day to 23.

On the West Rand serious violence threatened to erupt at Kagiso, near Krugersdorp, when about 200 pupils and some adults went on the rampage.

The pupils had been milling around restlessly in the afternoon. At dusk they attacked and looted beer-halls and overturned about 40 cars. Police stood by while they awaited instructions and reinforcements.

On the East Rand, African pupils in Tembisa, near Kempton Park, staged a sympathy march with Soweto. They carried placards, which read "Away with Afrikaans", and marched along the streets shouting, "Power" Like their counterparts, they forced African motorists to give the Black Power salute.

Show of strength

But a show of strength by police kept the situation in control.

In Johannesburg itself, street-fighting erupted when students from the University of Witwatersrand staged a sympathy march with the people of Soweto.

About 200 students were joined by some 400 Africans soon after the march started, only to be set upon by about 100 Whites armed with metal pipes and chains.

Fighting broke out, with some of the Africans retaliating with knives. Police restored order (See page 2).

In Soweto there were further ugly scenes, particularly at flashpoints like Rockville, Baragwanath and Diepkloof.

Police bullets killed a five-year-old girl, Tandi Plaattjes, and an unidentified 14-year-old boy in Rockville. Baragwanath hospital came under attack from an enraged African mob. The attack was repulsed by police. Later in the day the plush Diepkloof Hotel was set alight.

The chairman of the West Rand Bantu Administration Board, Mr Manie Mulder, toured Soweto accompanied by officials of his board. Describing the youth of Soweto as out of control, he appealed to them and their elders to realize they would not resolve the problems through vandalism.

Later, he told a press conference that just about all board buildings had been destroyed, including 21 offices which were burnt out and 10 which were plundered.

Although there was evidence of African anger, of hatred for Whites, there was another side to it.

News of it came through yesterday like a glimmering dawn of hope.

An African family in Soweto sheltered a White pest control inspector, Mr J Beeby, for the night. Their friendship almost certainly saved his life.