

No plans to alter language system

Schools language

The Argus Political Staff
IT was too soon to say whether there was any question of the 50/50 medium of instruction in African schools being reconsidered after yesterday's disturbances in Soweto, the Minister of Bantu Education, Mr M C Botha, said today

Interviewed briefly as he stepped from his car at his office this morning, the Minister was generally non-committal, saying that he first wanted to study the situation

Asked to comment on a report that the Deputy Minister of Bantu Education, Dr Andries Treurnicht, would meet West Rand Administration Board officials in Soweto, Mr Botha said 'We have had many lengthy discussions on this question with them in the past and it is likely that we are willing to have further talks in the future'

COMPULSORY

According to the Johannesburg newspaper Beeld today, Dr Treurnicht said that in the White part of South Africa, where the Government supplied buildings, gave subsidies and paid teachers, it surely had the right to determine what the language in schools ought to be.

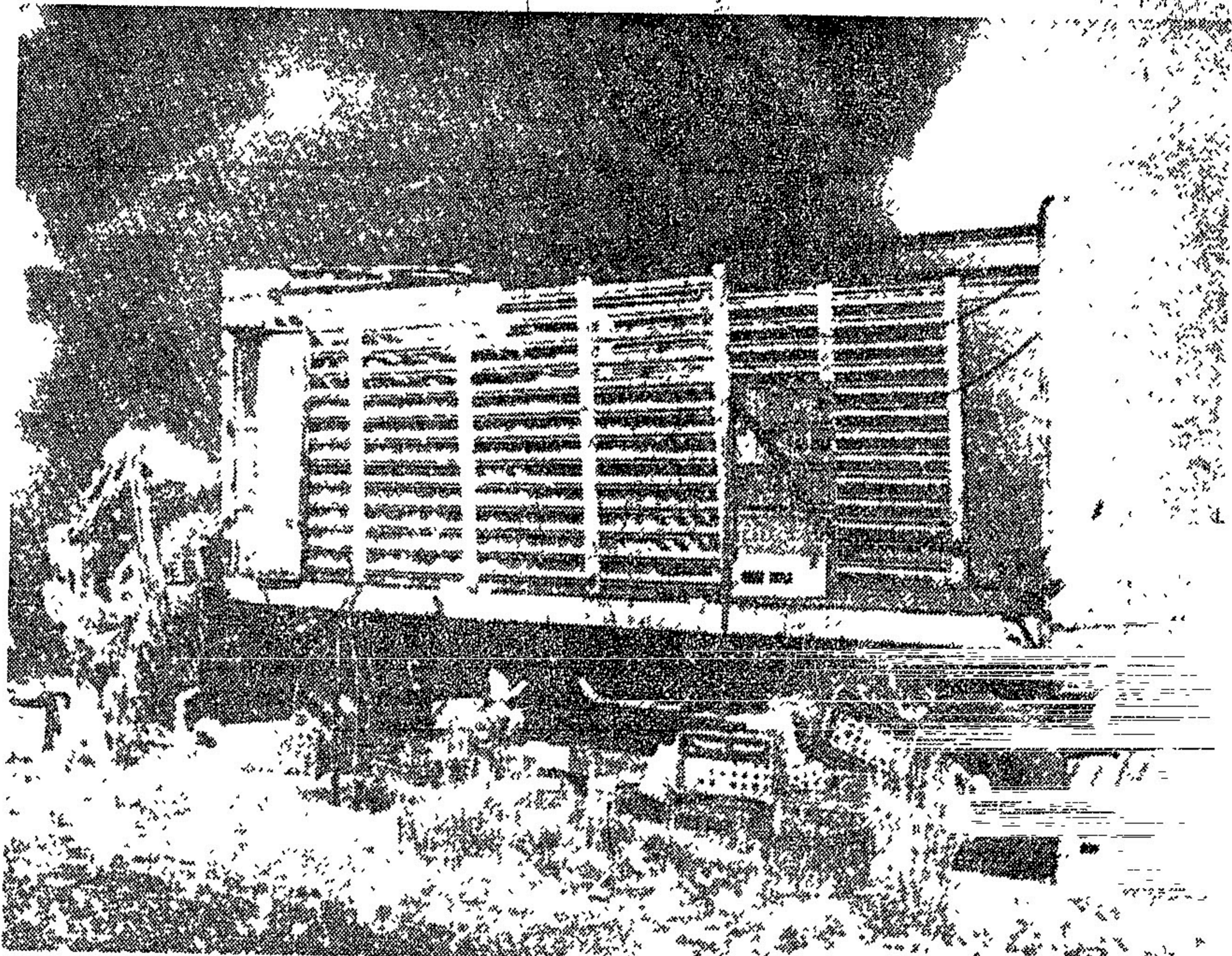
The paper quotes him as saying that this applied to schools in areas where there was no compulsory education, The Argus Correspondent reports.

'Why are pupils sent to schools where they are not satisfied with the language endowment?' Dr Treurnicht is quoted as saying.

'TROOPERS'

He is reported to have said that pupils in home-lands may be educated in the language their governments preferred, but it was only logical that South Africa should decide what it should be in the White area

According to Die Burger the Deputy Minister said it appeared very unlikely that the Government had to do only with a pupil protest in the riots. Possibly youthful 'storm troopers' were being used in another purpose



A LORRY and trailer carrying sorghum (Bantu) beer burns fiercely after being set alight by rioters.

'Minimum of force used'

— Kruger

The Argus Parliamentary Staff

THE police fired in self-defence and used the minimum of force to control the rioting in Soweto yesterday, the Minister of Justice and of Police, Mr J. T. Kruger, said in Parliament today.

Mr Kruger said the police maintained the 'greatest measure of self-control' throughout the rioting in the face of strong provocation.

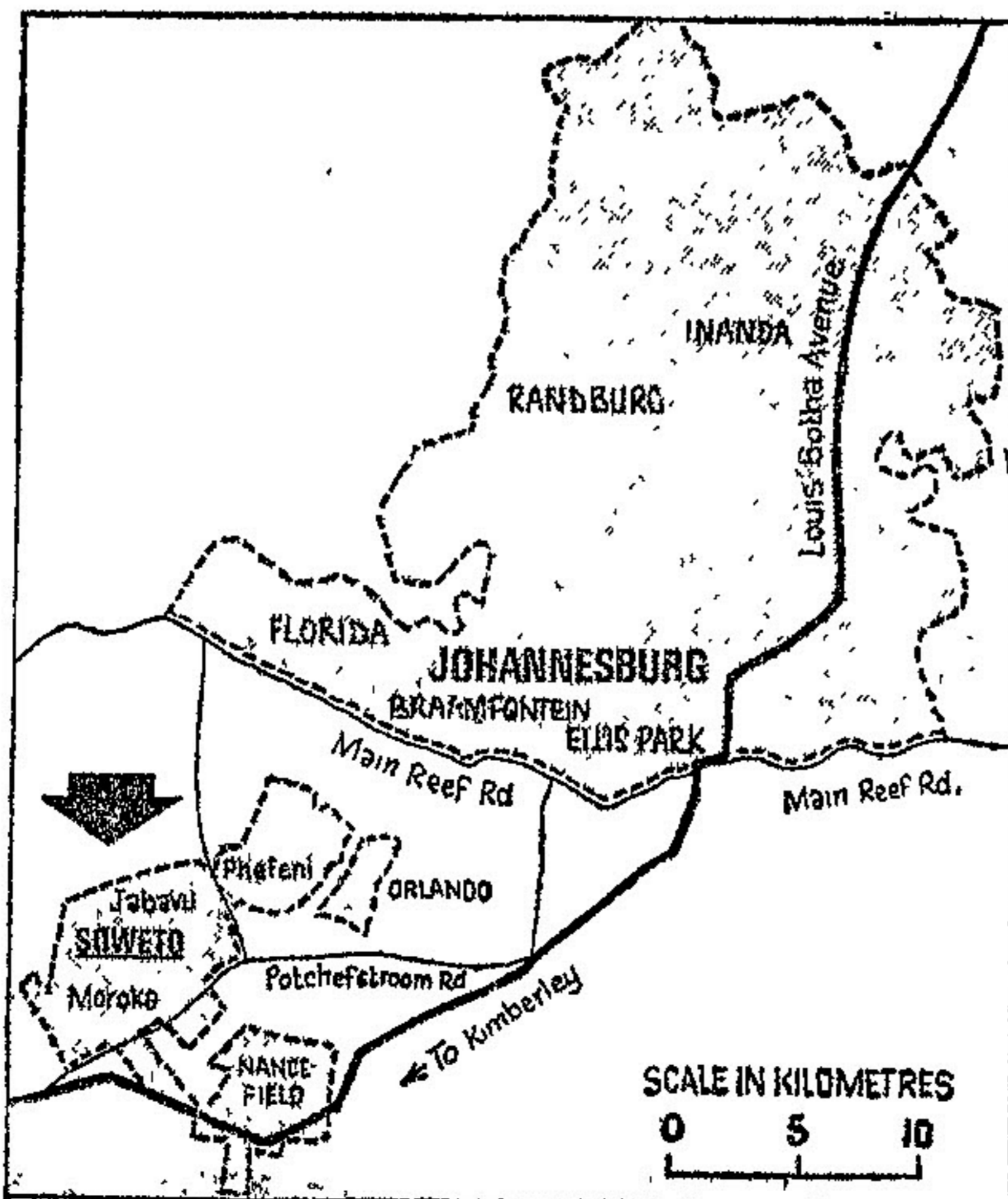
Warning shots were fired only when it became clear that tear-gas would not stop the rioters, he said in answer to a question by Mr R M Cadman (U.P. Umhlathuzna).

'However, where it became clear that the police would be overwhelmed and

MOBS ROAM STREETS

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Only a few minutes before on the same route, a White man had two large



MAP shows some of the African towns in the Soweto complex in relation to Johannesburg

dispute began in 1974

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The origin of Soweto's costly disturbances can be traced back to late 1974 when the regional director of Bantu Education for the Southern Transvaal issued a directive that Afrikaans and English were to be used on a 50-50 basis in junior secondary schools.

This generated widespread protests from both teacher bodies and school boards inside and outside Soweto.

The educationists saw this directive as a contradiction of the statement made the year before by the then Secretary for Bantu Education, the late Dr H. van Zyl.

He had made it clear that the medium of instruction in schools should be decided by the individual school boards in consultation with the secretary himself. He also stated that it was not in the interests of the pupils to have two media of instruction.

TURNED DOWN

● Following the 50-50 language directive from the regional director in late 1974, school boards and teacher bodies made representations to the Minister of Bantu Education for a change in this policy. This was turned down.

● In May last year the joint Northern and Southern Transvaal school boards elected a committee to take up the issue again with the Department of Bantu Education.

● The committee had at least one major meeting with the Secretary for Bantu Education but came away dissatisfied.

● During 1975 several school boards ordered their schools to ignore the language instruction and teach in English only.

SECRET

● At several secret meetings the school boards were read the riot act by the Bantu Education Department and told to toe the line. Most school boards capitulated but at



Dr. Edelstein

Victim warned of 'danger signals'

FOUR-AND-A-HALF years before Dr Melville Edelstein's death yesterday at the hands of Soweto rioters, he warned of the 'danger signals' of young Africans' hostility to Afrikaners and to the image of an Afrikaner government.

Yesterday he was one of the Whites killed as riots spread through the townships.

The trouble began with high school pupils' dissatisfaction over Afrikaans as a medium of education.

In September 1971, Dr Edelstein then chief wel-

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