

State still to decide on fate of Saawu men

UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDS the future of Sam Kikine, general secretary of the South African Allied Workers Union (SAAWU). Major A Conwright, said during the Fine trial on the previous day that Kikine was to be taken to the Eastern Cape and charged with Thozamile Gqweta and Sisa Njikelane.

Kikine's eight-month detention has been marked by a series of legal wrangles.

And the lengthy detentions of his two colleagues, Saawu president Thozamile Gqweta and Saawu vice-president Sisa Njikelane, have also been unusual.

Kikine was detained in Durban on November 27 last year under Section 22 of the General Laws Amendment Act. Two weeks later, he was held in terms of Section Six of the Terrorism Act: which calls for detainees to be held in solitary confinement with no access to the outside world.

In March this year, he was admitted to the psychiatric unit of the St Augustine Hospital in Durban, where he was under police guard.

Sometime after his discharge from hospital, he was transferred to Johannesburg. His lawyers do not know exactly when.

On June 28, he appeared in the Johannesburg Regional Court together with Gqweta and Njikelane in connection with charges under the Terrorism Act. Details of their charges were not disclosed.

Gqweta and Njikelane were told they would be transferred to Grahamstown for trial, and Kikine was told he was being transferred to Durban for trial.

The three men left the court — but 30 minutes later, Kikine was returned to court, where he was told the charges against him had been withdrawn.

He was immediately redetained and transferred to Durban in police custody. His lawyers do not know under which law he was detained, but presume it was Section Six of the Terrorism Act.

The next day, June 29, he appeared in the Durban Magistrate's Court, where he was told his case had been remanded until July 13. He appeared in connection with a charge under the Terrorism Act, but no details of charges against him were given.

Kikine was returned to police custody, and police said he was being held in terms of Section 12(a) of the Internal Security Act, the refusal of bail clause.

Meanwhile, his lawyers applied to have the trade union leader released on bail. When he appeared in court on July 13 he was told his bail application had been successful, and that he was being released on R500 bail.

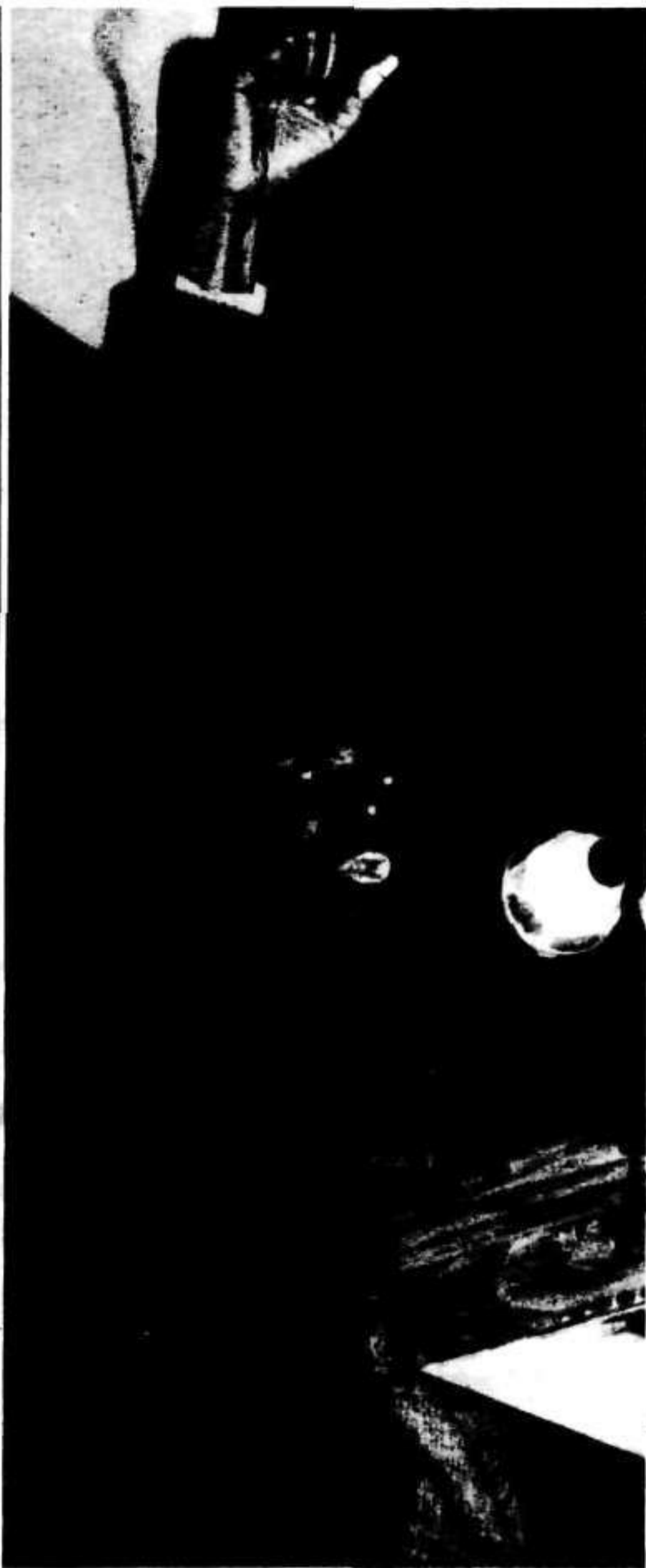
He was told to appear in court again on August 6.

Legal sources said it was unusual for an accused due to face a Terrorism Act charge to be released on bail.

When Gqweta and Njikelane appeared in a Grahamstown court, the magistrate told them he has no jurisdiction over their case, and that they were being transferred to East London.

They are due to appear again in an East London court next month.

Another Saawu office-bearer, Eric Mtonga, has been in detention under security laws since late last year.



Gawu's Samson Ndou ... "Dummy bodies can do nothing about housing, security and comfort"

Mass meeting says down with PW's puppet show

MORE THAN 1 500 people unanimously passed a resolution rejecting the proposals of the President's Council at an anti-South African Indian Council meeting in Lenasia this month.

'The PC has been projected as an instrument of reform which is supposed to bring about meaningful change for the coloured and Indian people,' said Anti-SAIC Committee chairman Dr Essop Jassat.

'It is however nothing more than an attempt to create the impression that the Botha Government is interested in bringing about real change.'

'The vast majority of the country's people have been ignored. Homelands are provided for the African people. The proposals are thus merely a sophisticated form of divide-and-rule tactics.'

Dr Jassat said that the PC was an undemocratic body because the people serving on it were hand-picked.

'Another reason why we reject the PC proposals is because it provides for a State President with dictatorial powers,' he said. 'Political power will be removed from parliament.'

'The executive president will select the Prime Minister and his Cabinet. The president also has the power to sack Cabinet members and dissolve parliament. This is a dictatorship as I see it.'

The PC also recommends that each residential area has its own local councils. 'These councils will have no real power,' said Jassat. 'They will deal only with administration.'

'This means we have to solve the many problems that we are not responsible for in the first place. It also diverts responsibility for housing from the central government.'

He attacked the PC's proposals for retaining the Group Areas Act. 'It does not reject the principles of compulsory segregation,' he said.

'The Group Areas Act is the very cornerstone of the policy of apartheid. Instead the proposals recommend a Group Areas Act Board.'

Jassat said the limitations of the proposals were thus clear: 'It is proposing nothing more than a powerless and ethnic parliament.'

Jassat said the demands of the people were made known long ago by the Freedom Charter drawn up in 1955 in Kliptown at the Congress of the People.

He said the demands were:

- a national convention;
- universal franchise in a single parliament;
- decent housing for all;
- the right to live where we please;
- free, non-racial and relevant education; and
- equitable land distribution.

Jassat said the PC does not even meet the minimum demands of the people.

He said 'grassroots, democratic organisations' such as trade unions and residents' associations have been formed to work towards this.

'The present government will not change,' he said. 'The only alternative is to actively oppose its policies. The road to freedom and justice is not easy.'

Rev Cecil Bebie, the vice-chairman of the Witwatersrand Council of Churches, said the PC was an attempt to fool people. 'But apartheid is evil through and through,' he said.

'Any attempt to bring about change within the framework of the system of apartheid is doomed to fail. It has to be scrapped. We can already see the cracks in apartheid.'

'We will not be divided. All people are created equal and should be granted equal freedom. I cannot see God giving any support to a political system which denies basic rights to all people.'

The president of the General and Allied Workers' Union (Gawu), Samson Ndou, said SAIC members know they can do absolutely nothing about 'housing, security and comfort'.

'Such institutions must be exposed and totally rejected by those who uphold the principles of democracy,' he said. 'Workers will also continue to fight for a democratic South Africa.'

'The wealth of this country must be shared by all who work for it. The union leaders are not agitators. Bad working conditions are themselves agitators.'

Ndou also attacked 'the criminal role of America in Israel and South Africa.'

From what we see of the Reagan government's policy of genocide in Lebanon, we don't want them here in South Africa', he said.

The crowd stood for a minute's silence in sympathy with the Palestinian people.

Helen Joseph, whose banning order expired in June, was welcomed with a standing ovation and presented with a garland. There was an emotional scene when she and Ama Naidoo, mother of the jailed Anti-SAIC member Prema Naidoo, embraced each other.

Helen Joseph is a listed person and may not be quoted. She was the first person to be placed under house arrest in South Africa in 1962. She was first banned in 1957.

Students launch blueprint

PREPARATIONS FOR the drawing up of an education charter have taken a new turn with the election of a Steering Committee to initiate and co-ordinate the campaign.

The Steering Committee, made up of representatives from different centres throughout the country, was elected at the recent Azaso congress to consult with student, community and labour groups to prepare for an education conference at the end of the year. This will involve a wide spectrum of organisations in accordance with Azaso's policies.

'At the education charter conference,' said an Azaso spokesperson 'all these organisations will meet to draw up a plan of action for the campaign'.

At the moment, he said, 'the campaign is in a stage where people are sharpening themselves up theoretically, consulting different groups on how the campaign should be run and also working on the kind of issues which can be taken up on the various campuses as a build-up to the charter'.

The charter campaign, decided on at the end of last year, has been jointly launched by Azaso (the Azanian Students' Organisation and Cosas (the Congress of South

African Students).

Azaso students have already caucused the idea on various campuses and at the congress report-backs confirmed a need for students to formulate a common set of educational demands.

The charter campaign is also important, they said, as a rallying point to mobilise students and to make student structures more mass based.

Said Azaso president Joe Phaahla. 'In the past demands for changes were neither co-ordinated nor consolidated. The only way to develop an alternative in education in South Africa is to involve students in formulating an education charter.'

The process will inevitably be as important as the charter itself — if not of more value'.

'The education charter could act as a barometer against which students could measure current educational reforms to see how far they contribute to meeting their basic demands', said one report.

All delegates stressed that education cannot be seen apart from the rest of society and the demands made in an education charter could only be met in a democratic South Africa.

A resolution to launch a national campaign to identify, consolidate and popularise the demands of the majority and to embody these demands in an education charter was passed.

'The education charter should be seen as an attempt to consolidate the demands and lessons of the '76 and '80's experience', said an Azaso spokesperson.

Expanding on this point, a Cosas representative said, 'In 1976 students were not clear about what type of education they wanted — whether they wanted the education given to whites, that offered to their forefathers or a fundamentally different kind'.

He said students also needed to formulate a document outlining their basic demands because 'the government is embarking on cosmetic changes in the educational field to counter progressive organisations. Students need a yardstick against which to measure, analyse and expose these so-called changes'.

'The education charter is important', he said, 'because it will be democratically formulated and democratically adopted and so will embody the minimum education demands of the people'.