

vi. STATEMENT BY SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANISATION

CONCERNED SOCIAL WORKERS

The concerned social workers group is opposed to the proposed Amendments to the Internal Security Act and the Public Safety Act. These Amendments will have a detrimental effect on the children, families and community with whom we work. In the previous state of emergency we were appalled by the effects of detention, allegation of torture and indiscriminate violence against children and adults. We have already seen the destructive social and psychological effects of the brutalisation of children on a massive scale and the breakdown of families and community life which is a natural consequence of the situation.

We believe that the proposed amendments will undoubtedly *exacerbate* the present situation and make the rendering of social services impossible. *Many* social workers *will be* unable to go into the townships and render an effective service. The declaration of unrest areas and detaining of members of the community for 180 days or longer will undoubtedly lead to an escalation of violence.

This is seen as a violation of human rights and as such should be opposed by all social workers. We call on all social workers to vehemently oppose the passing of this Bill. A meeting will be held to discuss this issue on the 11 June 1986. at the Central Methodist Church at 4.30. pm.