

PUBLIC SECTOR GOVT. - PRISONS

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Release those who fought for justice

— Qibla member

By AMEEN AKHALWAYA

QIBLA member Yusuf Patel, jailed for five years in the Pan Africanist Congress-Qibla trial under the Internal Security Act in 1988, has been paroled from Paarl's Victor Verster prison where he served as "a common criminal" after earlier being treated as a "security prisoner" and then a "potential security prisoner".

But the leading member of the Cape-based Islamic organisation, Imam Achmad Cassiem, who was sentenced to six years' jail in the same trial, is still being held on Robben Island.

Both Patel (39) and Imam Cassiem (44), who was voted co-winner of The Indicator Human Rights Award 1989, refused to apply to the state for indemnity.

Paarl-based Patel, who visited the Reef and Pretoria this week to thank people who gave them moral support, said in an interview in Lenasia this week he could not thank "the enemy" for his release on December 28. "We do not recognise the status of an illegitimate state. Neither we nor any of the other political prisoners should have been in jail in the first place."

Patel said he had been given an indemnity application form last November, but refused to sign it. Among the conditions for indemnity was that he foreswear violence. "It's a question of (FW) de Klerk's sincerity.

"He expects us to renounce violence. He wants us to forgive and forget," said Patel. "But is the state prepared to do the same? Is it prepared to acknowledge its guilt for committing atrocities against the oppressed?"

The courts had found that neither Patel nor Cassiem had committed any violence, though they had intended to overthrow the state by violent means.

Muslims in the Cape regarded their conviction as "conviction of the Quran".

A pamphlet issued by a Muslim group in Cape Town at the time said: "In the Pretoria regional court the magistrate read out four verses from the Quran when he passed judgement against Achmad Cassiem and Yusuf Patel. By convicting these two men he has declared the verses of the Quran as subversive."

Patel, re-united with his wife Badrunisha and nine-year-old daughter Amina, said he would stand by his Islamic ideals. Qibla was motivated by the Quranic injunction to "strive in the path of Allah in the way of those who are oppressed. Our position all along is to serve Allah and His creations and to see a just social order. That is our minimum and maximum demand."

Patel said that because he and Cassiem had been tried with PAC members, the impression had been created that Qibla was allied to the PAC. "Our position in fact is that we are prepared to work with the PAC and the ANC to bring about a just social order."

After his conviction, Patel was transferred from Pretoria to Cape Town's Pollsmoor prison where, he said, he was held as a "potential security prisoner", apart from other inmates. He was transferred to Victor Verster in July 1989 and four months later, was informed he had been classified a "common criminal". Last January he was moved to the prison's medium security section.

The Patels were angered by the continued incarceration of other political prisoners. "The oppressive state is still victimising those who are struggling for a just social order. We don't see why they are in jail in the first place."

The Qibla member, who was a partner in a small clothing business before his detention, said he had received several job offers but would take a few weeks to decide what type of work he will do. In terms of his parole, he has to be employed, he has to notify the prison authorities of any change of address or employment and to be in regular contact with the prisons welfare authorities.

Boerestaat Party man to join prison hunger strike

By Adam Gordon

Magistrate's Court yesterday.

A Boerestaat Party member in police custody will today join two colleagues now on a hunger strike at Diepkloof Prison, a party statement has announced.

Arthur Archer will join co-accused Leonard Veenendaal who began a strike on January 2 and Craig Barker who joined on January 8.

The men are among a group of four arrested in connection with alleged terrorist activity.

The statement was written in prison by the fourth man, Darryl Stopforth, and released when the men appeared in the Johannesburg

Magistrate's Court yesterday. Mr Veenendaal has since stepped up his strike by refusing liquids in protest against a decision to move the men to a multiracial prison, Mr Stopforth said

He said Mr Archer would join the others in their protest against

● The Government's "onesidedness" in granting leftwingers indemnity from prosecution.

● The "witchhunt" against rightwingers and the "display of force" by the Government

● Poor conditions and treatment in prison and the prison authorities' refusal to allow Boerestaat Party leader Robert van Tonder to see them

Judges, businessmen, farmers and doctors all failed, while lawyers and trade unionists passed in a rating of their collective contribution to human rights in South Africa, reports **South special correspondent**

IN a "report-card" prepared by the commissioner of the Human Rights Trust, Dr Max Coleman, the media, churches and schools just barely made the grade.

Coleman outlined his assessment of the various sectors in South African society in a recent address in Port Elizabeth.

"Some sectors have made an important contribution towards the achievement of human rights, while others are responsible, directly or indirectly, for their denial and as such must be held accountable," he explained

In Coleman's assessments, he noted that the judiciary is a byproduct of white control and has sadly played the role of legitimising an illegitimate system of government

In the relatively few cases where courageous and independent judgments have been given, the way has simply been shown to the legislature for the particular loophole to be closed

Judiciary

The potential for the judiciary to further the cause of human rights had not been realised.

The security forces are another byproduct of white control, and at times, it can be said they were a force unto themselves

We look here at both the source and the instrument of oppression, the arch-violator of human rights, Coleman said

Business

The business community is the prime beneficiary of apartheid. More than that, it must accept a great share of the responsibility for the creation of the essence of apartheid, namely the migrant labour system so highly dependent upon the existence of cheap, docile, compliant and controllable labour,

Lawyers pass with honour

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and access to land and natural resources in a privileged manner

Only very recently have we begun to see the emergence of "corporate social responsibility".

Farming

The white farming community likewise bears a heavy responsibility for the exploitation of cheap and defenceless labour and for being party to the dispossession and landlessness of the majority of the population

The human rights record of this sector is notorious

The exceptions can only be described as paternalistic at best

Trade unions

During the years of the states of emergency, the trade union movement shouldered the burden of the struggle against repression almost single-handedly, while virtually all other anti-apartheid organisations were banned and driven underground

Media and Law

The media has played a mixed role

Firstly, the state-controlled media has devotedly espoused the cause of apartheid, and in so doing has consistently prostituted itself in attempts to justify a system so devoid of human rights

The commercial or mainstream press has been patchy, at times waging a courageous struggle against the erosion of human rights, at other times falling victim to the trap of almost unconscious racialism and of support of the establishment.

It is this latter weakness which has resulted in the mushrooming of the al-



Commissioner of the Human Rights Trust, Dr Max Coleman

ternative press, which is community-based and more in tune with the daily struggle for political and human rights

The legal profession to its credit has

produced a strong tradition of human rights lawyers who have played an important role in the struggle against apartheid

Medical

The medical profession has not covered itself with glory, or even honour. The role played by district surgeons in the treatment of detainees has often conflicted with the Hippocratic Oath and even with the Tokyo Declaration in relation to the torture of detainees under interrogation

Education

The education establishment has played an extremely negative role, not only in spreading values incompatible with human rights, but specially in participating in the creation of an education system designed to support the apartheid stratification of the South African population into masters and servants

The area of education has inevitably become a major site of struggle and has produced some of the strongest resistance structures in the form of student and teacher groupings

Religion

Religious groupings have a mixed human rights record. The churches aligned with the system of apartheid have a history of preaching scriptural justification for racial discrimination and for acting as the bastion of the doctrine of racial purity

They have wielded immense influence in determining the racial and political attitudes of their flock

On the other hand, the role of anti-apartheid churches has been extremely supportive of those struggling for justice, particularly at a time when their voice was one of the very few remaining

Rightwingers on hunger strike

Three right-wing Boerestaat Party prisoners awaiting trial for treason are still on a hunger strike, a prisons spokesman said yesterday

The condition of Leonard Veenendaal (34), Craig Barker (21) and Arthur Archer (29) is unchanged, a source said

Mr Veenendaal has been refusing food since January 2

The men have been charged with terrorism for allegedly causing five explosions in Johannesburg last year

They are protesting against the government's "onesidedness in granting bail and amnesty conditions to left-wingers", and their impending placement in a multi-racial jail — Staff Reporter.

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Course to help ex-cons get jobs, stay away from crime 253

By JACQUELYN SWARTZ *AMGUS*
Staff Reporter *18/1/91*

EX-CRIMINALS are being driven back into the lap of crime by unemployment, say social workers

For this reason a new programme called *Empowerment for Employment* has been initiated by Nicro, the South African National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders.

According to Mr Quinton Arendse, a social worker at Nicro, ex-offenders are discriminated against because of their records

"Due to the nature of society and the nature of the market, about 70 percent of ex-offenders remain unemployed

BAD RISK

"Industry sees ex-offenders as a bad risk, and most of the time these are people who have inferiority complexes due to the discrimination that society forces on them," he said

"As a result they find difficulty in finding work and because of that and because of the present market situation, somewhere along the line we must find something for these guys"

The programme is, therefore, aimed at teaching them how to secure jobs

This includes background assess-

ment, career guidance, enhancement of administrative and coping skills, and dealing with interview situations

"The first part of the programme is the background assessment of the person — his educational experience and skills. Which of these three areas can we actually market?"

JOB SATISFACTION

"My experience is that people go around with certain skills and experience, but they don't market the one they know best because they are so desperate for work. They just take what they get"

Mr Arendse said this often resulted in people being unhappy in their jobs and leaving after only a short while

Career guidance is also an important part of the programme.

"If you do work you enjoy it does something to your person. Employment develops a person's personality, which is why we try to direct a person into a job he likes

"As part of career guidance we also want to focus on providing information on the informal sector, focussing on repairing, producing and selling things

"The informal sector presently offers quite a lot for the unemployed because people have their own co-operatives and private industry at home

"It employs a lot of people in the unskilled community."

Also important is the enhancement of administrative skills — teaching people to present themselves better on paper.

This includes teaching the person letter and CV writing skills, and the filling in of application forms.

"This is another disability I have picked up These forms look easy for us, but for a person who does not have the necessary background and has been out of circulation for a year or more, its Greek."

Handling the job interview situation is also an important part of the programme. It aims to teach people presentation, style, and preparation.

Nicro also aims to assist their clients in coping with their situations.

"Here, we focus on personality problems like inferiority complexes, feelings of failure, and insecurity

"Many people become disillusioned after the fifth unsuccessful try at finding a job"

"If you have to walk from company to company you get tired and disillusioned, especially if they take your friend and not you."

The programme is free. It starts on February 4

Anyone who is interested can contact Mr Quinton Arendse, or Mr Joe Henry at Nicro on 474 000



Bush and Hussein — a dangerous game of chicken

BY this time next week we will know the outcome of the dangerous game of chicken being played by George Bush and Saddam Hussein.

Whoever blinks first, the most nauseating aspect is that in threatening to wreck world peace, both antagonists have cloaked naked self-interest with moral self-righteousness.

The Americans, with the backing of their Western and Arab allies, have a point. Saddam Hussein shouldn't have grabbed Kuwait. And, if he is not stopped now, where will his ambitions lead him next?

Saddam Hussein, they correctly point out, is a tyrant and a warmonger. He waged war against Iran for eight years, using chemical weapons to extinguish large numbers of people — and even turned his poison gas on his own dissident Kurdish population.

But this argument would have more force if the Americans, the Germans and the French had morally objected to him long ago instead of profiting from the sale of the very weapons and chemicals of extermination across the desert

Nearly everyone agrees that Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait was wrong. But do the US and its allies have to go to war over it, considering America's own record of invasions? Instead of preparing for a bloodbath, maybe the world should be looking for a solution to the problems of the Middle East, argues

PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK



The war has racial and religious overtones that are enormously destructive. There is a growing tendency in the West to portray Arabs as sinister people who would blow up a jumbo at the drop of a hat.

The emotional Arab response is to see this war as yet another exercise in Western bullying of a proud people whose only sin is to stand up for themselves. This view is encouraged by Bush's tough Clint Eastwood talk as he deepens his voice and talks mean, as he did during his presidential campaign.

If Bush seeks to win the argument by force, the world could be embroiled in an absurd war by this time next week. The lives of thousands could be sacrificed for, as one wag described it, 18 miles to the gallon for American gas guzzlers.

It took Richard Nixon of all people to say it. This war is not to stop a dictator, but for America's own self-interests. The US will not be fighting for democracy, but to safeguard an area of vital economic interest.

Kuwait was not a democracy before it was annexed by Iraq five months ago and it will not become one if the Emir of Kuwait returns. "If our policy were to punish cruel

Robben Island is 'no place to talk'

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Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — The African National Congress and the Democratic Party have told Ministers they had been insensitive by holding their planning session at Robben Island, famous as an apartheid political prison.

President de Klerk led his Cabinet in two days of talks on Friday and Saturday to discuss their strategy for the year ahead.

While his office has not officially said where the talks were held, government-supporting newspapers first reported that they took place on Robben Island. This has not been denied.

A spokesman for President de Klerk said yesterday that Cabinet services organised the programme. The officials involved were not allowed to speak to the press.

Mike Ellis, chairman of the

Democratic Party's Natal coastal region, said it must have been a most extraordinary feeling for political prisoners, knowing that the people on whom their freedom depended were actually on the island.

The choice of venue was remarkably insensitive and tasteless, Mr Ellis said.

"I have no problem with the Cabinet going into hiding to discuss no doubt extremely important matters," he said, but pointed out there were other more suitable venues.

Offend

"Did the Ministers sleep in cells? Did they enjoy a luxury other prisoners did not have? Did they bother to see political prisoners? If so, what discussions took place? Were they eating in luxury while the prisoners were subject to prison food?"

"One cannot imagine the Cabinet going without their com-

forts and luxuries, while hundreds of prisoners were subject to normal prison conditions," Mr Ellis said.

He felt the decision to use Robben Island for such a function would offend many people.

ANC spokesman Gill Marcus said the choice of venue was highly insensitive. Robben Island remained a prison.

With the Government looking at ways forward, "one would think that there would be some respect for the experience of black South Africans."

"What you have got is in essence a white indaba where black people have experienced the harshest of realities."

People had died and suffered on Robben Island and the ANC did not regard it as a place where "light entertainment" or such discussions should take place.

"One should be sensitive to the reality of what Robben Island is to black South Africans," Ms Marcus said.

Hunger striker ill, says wife

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THE wife of Orde Boerevolk member Mr Leonard Veenendaal, on his 21st day of a hunger strike in prison, said yesterday authorities had refused her visiting rights to what she believes is a seriously ill husband.

Mrs Tracy Veenendaal said she feared for her husband's health as she had heard that blood had now been found in his urine and that he and another fellow hunger striker, Mr Arthur Archer, were both very weak.

Their lawyer, Mr Wim Cornelieus, said he would contact a human rights organisation about the matter.

Major Wim Greyling, spokesman for the Department of Correctional Services, was approached for comment yesterday. A statement is expected later.

Mrs Veenendaal said

four of the OB members currently in prison - her husband, Mr Daryl Stopforth, Archer and Mr Craig Barker - are in various stages of hunger strikes they had embarked on earlier this year to protest against their continued imprisonment.

Amnesty

Since their bail application was turned down in November, they had been awaiting trial at Diepkloof Prison in Johannesburg while their amnesty application, submitted to the authorities last year, was being decided.

The OB members - who claim their deeds had been politically inspired - have each submitted an application for amnesty under the general pardon for political crimes announced by President FW de Klerk last year. - Sapa

Sapa 23/1/91

Warder ⁽²⁵³⁾

'forced' South 24/11 - 30/11/91 to resign from job

A WHITE prison warder has allegedly been coerced to resign from his job because he is a member of the ANC in Ladysmith.

Mr Coenrad de Beer, 26, alleged two unidentified white men had regularly visited his father to persuade him to force his son to resign from the Department of Correction Services because of his ANC membership.

Major DH Smith, of the department's liaison office, said "According to records in this department's possession, he stated in writing that his resignation was voluntary."

"The allegation that he was forced by the Department of Correctional Services to resign is not true."

However, another warder who refused to be named and who is a friend of De Beer, claimed De Beer had not resigned voluntarily.

"De Beer was given leave to decide on his resignation, and those who went to his father persuaded his father to force him to resign."

"He said his father instructed him to resign to protect the De Beer surname," the warder claimed.

The Oudtshoorn branch of the ANC claimed the incident was "another attempt by the state machinery to carry on its campaign" against the organisation.

De Beer is also a member of the Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union (Popcru).

Released but not free

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By Musa Ndwandwe

A POLITICAL prisoner "released" in terms of the Pretoria Minute last Friday is still not free to go home.

Monde Mouloung, while no longer a prisoner, has to remain in Valkenberg psychiatric hospital, where he has spent more than 12 years as a State President's patient after he was declared mentally unfit to stand trial on terrorism charges in June 1977.

The institution's medical superintendent, Dr Gavin Garrett, said preparations were underway to transfer Mouloung to Sterkfontein mental hospital in the Transvaal, closer to his home in Nigel's Dudaiza township.

"He is still mentally ill but is fit to be transferred to an institution nearer home," said Garrett.

Mouloung, 34, was 20 years old when he was charged with nine counts of terrorism and two counts of murder following shooting incidents in what became known as the "Goch Street Killings" on June 13, 1977.

The other two suspects were Solomon Mahlangu, 21, and another, named by the state as Lucky Mahlangu. They were also from Dudaiza township.

Wounded

It is thought that Mouloung might have suffered severe brain damage, possibly as a result of injuries sustained when a white member of the public attacked him at the time of the shooting.

He also sustained a gun wound in his left foot.

After finding him guilty of nine charges, including two counts of murder, Solomon Mahlangu was hanged by the state in 1978. The third suspect is believed to have evaded arrest.

The state alleged that the three left the

country after the 1976 Soweto uprising and underwent military training in ANC camps in Angola, Swaziland and Mozambique.

They allegedly returned in June 1977 with arms, ammunition and explosives and stored it in a house in Dudaiza. On the morning of the shooting they travelled to Johannesburg, carrying three sub-machine guns, ammunition and handgrenades.

After they were approached by someone who attempted to search their luggage, which held the ammunition, they ran off towards Goch Street where they took cover under a motorway and fired several shots.

They then ran into a warehouse, where they came across four white men. The state further claimed that Mouloung fired shots at these four, killing two.

The two wounded men attempted to apprehend Mouloung who, in turn, tried to detonate a handgrenade before he was overpowered and handed over to police who had arrived on the scene. Mouloung's mother, Mrs Masitela

Mouloung, said she was "disturbed" by the circumstances under which her son fell ill.

"He is the eldest of my two children and his younger sister and I miss him very much," she said from her Dudaiza home.

"I have been pleading with the doctors to bring him home because I can take care of him," she said.

Discharge

Mrs Mouloung was in Cape Town last Friday to see her son, whom she had last seen during the trial in 1977. "He can still recognise me and I was shocked to hear him asking about people I did not think he still remembered," she said.

She said she was "waiting for the day" when he would not only be transferred to the Transvaal, but also discharged from hospital.

Two prisoners, Mr S'busiso Mvelase from Johannesburg and Mr Teboho Chobosheane from Durban, were released from Robben Island on Friday. They had each served three of their five-year sentences for terrorism.



RELEASED: Mr Teboho Chobosheane from Durban



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Van Tonder allowed to see jailed rightwinger

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By Adam Gordon

Boerestaat Party leader Robert van Tonder has been permitted to visit jailed party member Leonard Veenendal, who has been on a hunger strike for 22 days

Mr van Tonder, who had been refused permission to visit Mr Veenendal on January 11, yesterday learnt permission had been granted to visit Diepkloof Prison tomorrow

Mr Veenendal is one of four awaiting-trial prisoners charged with

terrorism for allegedly causing five explosions last year

Craig Barker, Arthur Archer and Darryl Stopforth were also now on hunger strike, a Prison Services spokesman confirmed on Tuesday

He said medical treatment was available to them and their conditions were satisfactory

Mr van Tonder said the men were protesting at the Government's "one-sidedness in granting bail and amnesty conditions to leftwingers"

Powerful gangs still reign in prison system

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Sowetan 24/1/91

Prison chiefs say they are slowly defeating sinister gangs which have terrorised South African prisons for decades through a regime of ritualised homosexuality and violence.

But ex-inmates and lawyers say the gangs still have a powerful hold on blacks throughout the prisons system.

A decade ago, Johannesburg law professor Nicholas Haysom sounded the alarm with a report on the way the gangs pervaded prison life, terrifying court witnesses into silence and attacking any who defied them.

"Most commonly the victim is strangled with a belt, or has his throat cut or is eviscerated (disembowelled) . . . or, frequently, a combination of these," he wrote.

Today, Haysom says: "I understand from prisoners that the gangs are still flourishing.

Unsafe

"There is no suggestion I have heard that the prison department has controlled the situation."

According to interviews with people familiar with the gang system, the "number gangs," named after the size of their original membership, communicate across the entire prison system.

Even if a victim asks to be transferred to another jail, he can never feel safe.

The gangs pre-date the South

African prisons service, and maintain complex hierarchies, languages and secret symbols

They stem from a bandit group in the late 19th century called the Ninevites, which permeated black single-sex migrant labour compounds and jails.

The all-male environment fostered homosexuality, which became a way of life although some members objected.

Early this century a dissident Ninevites leader broke away with 27 fighters, while the original gang leader was left with 28.

While the head of the "27 Gang" was in prison, six non-members smuggled luxuries to him and he let them form a "26 Gang"

Symbol

Nowadays, the gangs have died out in the outside world but flourish in prison, each with separate but complementary roles

The 28s pamper, protect and organise 'wyfies' or wives, according to Haysom. They are men of the night, their symbol is sunset.

The thieving 26s work by day and only shed blood after sunset in self-defence

The 27 protect and enforce the codes of 27 and 26

Outside the mainstream are the "Airforce (24)" which alone organises mass escapes, and the loathed "Big Five", which seeks rewards by informing and col-

laborating with authorities

When a gang truce fails, a leader will suddenly shout "Up" in a canteen or kitchen - and war with crude weapons erupts.

An old gangster arriving at a new jail can prove his rank, such as colonel or inspector, by describing his imaginary uniform, flashing secret handsigns, showing tattoos like the 27's symbolic gates or the dollar sign of the 26.

He uses a special slang, a mixture of Afrikaans and Zulu.

Prisoners who refuse to join are persecuted, handsome young men risk being made into wyfies of the 28 and may have to prove their masculinity by attacking a fellow inmate.

After Haysom reported, the prison authorities commissioned a sociological study of gangs in 1984 and began reforms to remove frustrations and grievances which fostered gang activity.

Parole

Education, television, recreation and sports facilities have been provided, visits extended, parole provisions introduced and more contact encouraged with the outside world.

"Last year a whole new privilege concept was introduced, with phone calls, home leave, more contact visits," said Brigadier Fred Munro, director of prison control of the newly-renamed Department of Correc-

tional Services

Prisoners complaining of gang persecution are moved to jails where gangs are less active, and placed in safe company. Young offenders are separated from known gangsters.

Munro said that although gang clashes are still reported, murders and assaults have declined dramatically. There is a new mood in prisons, rigid gang rules are breaking down, he said.

"Younger black prisoners see the history of the gangs - their fictitious clothing and so on - as increasingly unreal," said Munro.

Bravery

A man who recently finished three years in prison near Vereeniging south of Johannesburg for car theft said he had resisted number gang attempts to recruit him in 1989.

"They said they would kill me in the night. I said, 'Do it,'" recounted the man, who asked not to be named.

"You must be brave to resist, but if you join you must stab somebody and then you stay in prison a long time," he said. "They took my blankets, put water in my bed, stole my things, but I did not join."

Researchers are watching with interest to see what happens now that racial segregation in prisons has begun to be scrapped - Sapa-Reuter

Right-wing hunger strikers in hospital

By Adam Gordon (253)

Three right-wing prisoners on hunger strike have been transferred to the Johannesburg Hospital, a friend of one of the prisoners told The Star yesterday.

The woman, who did not wish to be named, said Leonard Veenendaal, Craig Barker and Arthur Archer had been admitted to hospital on Wednesday.

A hospital spokesman confirmed that the men had been admitted, suffering from the effects of starvation.

Mr Veenendaal's condition

was worse than the other two because he had been on strike longer. They were, however, all in a stable condition, he said.

The men, with a fourth accused, Darryl Stopforth, are in custody charged with terrorism.

Mr Veenendaal has been on hunger strike since January 2. Mr Barker began on January 8, followed by Mr Archer on January 15.

They are refusing food in protest against the Government's alleged "one-sided" refusal to grant bail and amnesty to right-wing prisoners.

Gangs still rule the prison roost

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PRETORIA. — Prison chiefs say they are slowly defeating sinister gangs which have terrorised South African prisons for decades through a regime of ritualised homosexuality and violence.

But ex-inmates and lawyers say the gangs still have a powerful hold on blacks throughout the prisons system

A decade ago, Johannesburg law professor Nicholas Haysom sounded the alarm with a report on the way the gangs pervaded prison life, terrifying court witnesses into silence and attacking any who defied them

"Most commonly the victim is strangled with a belt, or has his throat cut or is eviscerated (disemboweled) . . . or, frequently, a combination of these," he wrote

Today, Mr Haysom said that he understood from prisoners that the gangs were still flourishing

"There is no suggestion I have heard that the prison de-

ALL WHO DEFY THEM ATTACKED AND SILENCED

partment has controlled the situation"

The "number gangs" — named after the size of their original membership — straddle and communicate across the entire prison system. Even if a victim asks to be transferred to another jail, he can never feel safe

The gangs pre-date the South African prisons service, and maintain complex hierarchies, languages and secret symbols.

They stem from a bandit group in the late 19th century called the Ninevites, which permeated black single-sex migrant labour compounds and jails. The all-male environment fostered homosexuality and the gang adopted it as a way of life, but some members objected

Early this century a dissident leader broke away with 27 fighters, while the original gang leader was left with 28

While the head of the "27 Gang" was in prison, six non-members smuggled luxuries to him and he let them form a "28 Gang"

Nowadays, the gangs have died out in the outside world but flourish in prison, each with separate but complementary roles

"The 28s pamper, protect and organise catamites or 'wyfies'. The 26 steal and rob by patience and cunning. The 27 protect and enforce the codes of 27 and 26," Mr Haysom wrote

The 28 are men of the night, their symbol is sunset. The 26 work by day and only shed blood after sunset in self-defence

When a gang truce fails, a leader will suddenly shout "Up" in a canteen or kitchen — and war with crude weapons erupts

Prisoners who refuse to join are persecuted, handsome young men risk being made into "wyfies" (wives) of the 28 and may have to prove their masculinity by attacking a fellow inmate

After Mr Haysom reported, the prison authorities commissioned a sociological study of gangs in 1984 and began reforms to remove frustrations and grievances which fostered gang activity

Education, television, recreation and sports facilities have been provided, visits extended, parole provisions introduced and more contact encouraged with the outside world.

Brigadier Fred Munro, director of prison control of the Department of Correctional Services said that although gang clashes were still reported, murders and assaults had declined dramatically

There was a new mood in prisons, while rigid gang rules were breaking down, he said.
— Sapa-Reuter

The crime-busters

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As South Africa's jails offload political prisoners during the process of normalisation, an explosion of crime could lead to those cells being flooded by "ordinary" criminal.

Ironically so, because the country's soaring crime rate has much to do with politics.

World tendencies illustrate that political instability, as experienced during a transitional phase, inevitably leads to an increase in crime.

If this is coupled with the particular circumstances in South Africa — where a political system can largely be blamed for poverty, unemployment, horrific socio-economic conditions, a culture of violence, emotional strain arising from feelings of deprivation and inequality — a recipe exists to turn South Africa into one of the crime capitals of the world.

The exacerbating factors can be addressed, over many years, through huge investment in education, training, jobs, housing, welfare and social upliftment.

But to rehabilitate criminals, and to prevent new generations of deprived South Africans from resorting to crime, will be just as capital-intensive, time-con-

South Africa's crime explosion can be curbed, but it will take a lot of money and time, writes **ESMARE VAN DER MERWE**, The Star's Political Reporter.

suming and daunting.

Last year's official crime figures are illustrated in the accompanying graphic, but it should be noted that these figures are based on reported crimes. Experts believe actual crime figures are higher.

Criminologists stress the role of the police but offer other solutions too.

HSRC chief researcher Dr Lorraine Glanz believes in the strengthening of communities.

"It is hopeless to blame soaring crime on an ineffective police force. The real groundwork has to come from society.

"The current trend in the United States is to focus on the role of communities. You cannot stop crime unless communities realise it is their problem."

In this regard, neighbourhood watches could play a preventative and educational role, she

says, adding that individual security — "locks and bars and not taking any chances" — plays a major role too.

Unisa criminologist Professor Beaty Naude adds that public awareness programmes — involving the State, politicians, community leaders, the police, teachers and parents — could restore discipline in society.

In the US, she says, research has found that the liberal punishment systems of the 1970s and early 1980s have been ineffectual. Recently, tougher measures have been successfully introduced — not necessarily by jailing first offenders, but by charging them in court, and immediately subjecting offenders to state-funded rehabilitation programmes or social skills development programmes.

The South African National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders (Nicro), which encourages alternative punishment to prison terms, has suggested weekend imprisonment, community service and "sentencing" youngsters to finish school.

An Omnichek study has found strong support in black communities for "education sentences". But support was also

expressed for jail terms for all crimes (as opposed to white respondents' preference for community work, weekend jail and heavy fines).

Commented the researchers: "These two responses may well depict the quandary that many blacks find themselves in — on the one hand, a conservative community that feels criminals should be sternly dealt with, but on the other, a community in the throes of upheaval that has broken down the basic authority structures in families. Sending youngsters back to school would not only keep them off the streets, but would also help to re-establish family and community structures."

Another interesting solution is offered by Operation Hunger director Ina Perlman, who sees a return to subsistence farming as a prime crime preventor.

Ms Perlman argues that urbanisation has led to the concentration of functionally illiterate people in squatter communities around the country's metropolises. These people are "wide open to crime as the only solution to their problems".

She says: "My great hope for 1991 lies in the repeal of the Land Acts. Our surveys in squatter camps has shown that 68 percent of the people who come from the rural areas would want to return 'home' if given the opportunity.

"But society is totally hung up on urbanisation. We are compounding the problem of violence and crime by not offering people the alternative to stay on their land."

Operation Hunger has had considerable success in assisting black families to re-establish themselves as farmers.

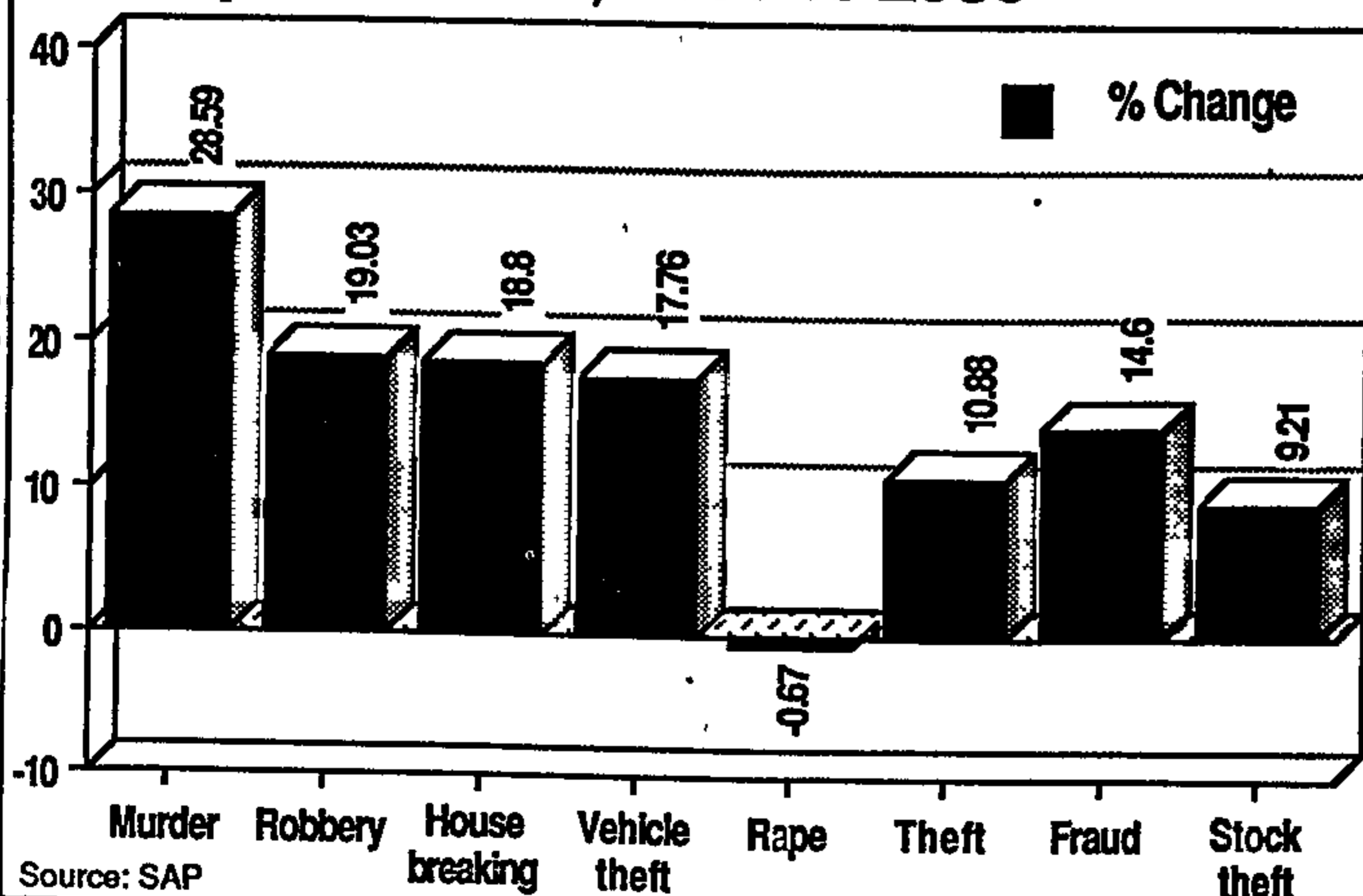
Says Ms Perlman. "In Makapanstad, we have assisted 20 families with ploughing facilities and seeds for their first maize and flower seed crops. We have not had to help them again.

"It has cost us under R10 000 to re-establish 20 families.

"Our vegetable garden projects, which have been established over the country, cost R5 000 to re-establish 40 families. It is actually wicked how little it takes.

"Sure, we are only talking survival, but at least that is preferable to the Nairobi option where you find hectares and hectares of slums." □

Serious crime in South Africa Reported cases, 1990 vs 1989



CPM Tracy 30/1/91 (20/90) 253

Visit for jailed right-winger

JOHANNESBURG — The right-wing hunger-striker at Johannesburg Hospital, Mr. Leonard Veenendaal, was visited by his wife Tracy yesterday morning.

Mrs. Veenendaal said her husband was determined to continue his hunger strike.

Although he had started taking small amounts of water, his body was rejecting most of it. She said he also refused to take intravenous drips of any kind and continued to refuse food.

As Mrs. Veenendaal said President F. W. de Klerk had promised a decision on the six jailed OB members' application for indemnity by Friday, her eyes filled with tears and she said "Why wait until Friday? By then Leonard will be dead" — Sapa

Star 3/11/91

Rightwinger ends fast, put on drip

Staff Reporter (253)

Right-wing hunger striker Leonard Veenendal is on an intravenous drip in the Johannesburg Hospital after ending his 28-day fast yesterday.

He stopped his strike at noon after an agreement was reached between his lawyer, Wim Cornelius, the police and the Prisons Service. Details of the agreement were not released.

Mr Veenendal (34), Arthur Archer (29) and Craig Barker (21) had gone on hunger strike in protest against the Government's alleged "one-sided" refusal to grant bail and amnesty to right-wing prisoners.

Mr Archer and Mr Barker ended their strikes on Monday.

The three men were arrested last year on allegations of terrorism, attempted murder and

illegal possession of explosives.

Visitors to their hospital ward, guarded by five policemen, last night saw Mr Barker and Mr Archer walking around the room while Mr Veenendal was in bed, with a drip in his arm.

Mr Barker and Mr Archer beckoned The Star's photographer to enter the ward but he was prevented from doing so by the police.

The men went to the door and requested the photographer to take their picture, but again he was barred from doing so.

Mr Barker was dressed in a white shirt and a pair of black pants, while the bearded Mr Archer wore a khaki T-shirt and khaki pants.

Both men were barefoot. Mr Veenendal was dressed in striped pyjamas.

FW's 'empty words'

South 31/11 - 6/2/91

By Rehana Rossouw

ON February 2 last year, Mrs Patricia Jacobs sat watching President FW de Klerk's speech at the opening of parliament, refusing offers to leave the house to visit friends

Her son Peter, 25, is serving a 14-year sentence for terrorism on Robben Island and Jacobs wanted to hear what De Klerk had decided about the release of political prisoners

"I was just expecting news about Nelson Mandela's release but when I heard that the ANC was unbanned, I jumped up in excitement," Jacobs said

"It was the best news I had heard in years. I expected Peter to be released soon, certainly before the end of the year"

A year later, Jacobs believes the statements made at the opening of parliament were just "empty promises"

After waiting for a year for her son's release and being disappointed on numerous occasions, Jacobs says she won't believe a word De Klerk says this year

"Those words, which meant such a lot to me last year, mean nothing today," she said

Empty promises

"They were just words, just empty promises — he'll probably do the same this year"

Since the beginning of 1990, the government has told South Africa's estimated 1500 political prisoners they would be released, but so far little more than 10 percent of all political prisoners have been set free

According to the Liaison Committee for the Release of Political Prisoners in the Western Cape which has just released a document titled "The Case for Pre-Release Counselling", anticipation of releases mounted on three occasions last year

In April, the entire political prisoner community on Robben Island celebrated the end of incarceration with a party. At the time, fewer than 60 of the 360 political prisoners on Robben Island had been freed. By August, hopes for release increased when the government and the ANC agreed to begin releasing large numbers of political prisoners, starting on September 1

"Fully expecting releases to commence



PROTESTING Part of the 100-strong crowd of relatives and friends, including those of Peter Jacobs, who held a demonstration at the Robben Island ferry in the Cape Town docks last year, calling for the release of all political prisoners

that day, most political prisoners packed their belongings and threw another farewell party," the document read.

"Families gathered at the harbour to await the arrival of their loved ones on the ferry

"To the dismay of both prisoners and their families, only 11 were released on September 3 and not more than 50 since that time"

Jacobs was one of the hundreds of people who gathered at the harbour on September 1

When no one was released, she went home bitterly disappointed, frustrated and angry

Again, promises were made that most prisoners would be released by Christmas last year. Again, Jacobs allowed herself to raise her hopes that she would be reunited with her son

"I sat at home, waiting for the telephone to ring, praying that this time it would be my son who would be waiting for me at Cowley House (the reception centre for released political prisoners),"

she said

"Until Christmas Eve I sat at home, too scared to go out in case I missed the call

"I want to be at the docks when my son comes home. I want to be the first person to greet him"

Jacobs said the past year had been worse than the year her son was detained, held in solidarity confinement and then put on trial

She did not know what to expect, and put her life "on hold" in case her son was released

Mrs Lynette Veldtman has been without her husband Sazi since May 1987, when he was detained. Later the same year, he was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment for terrorism. He is serving his sentence on Robben Island.

She was five months pregnant at the time and her son, Torvo Mkhululi, now four, has never known what it is like to have his father at home

"We started hoping, waiting for Sazi's release from February 2 last year," said Veldtman

"At one stage it affected my nerves so badly that I could not study or work, I couldn't concentrate"

For his family, the wait for word from the Department of Justice is agonising

"I have had problems with my children, I promised them that by December last year our family would be back together again," Veldtman said.

"The little one keeps asking when Sazi is coming back, even though he has never had a real relationship with his father

"He has never been able to really get to know Sazi the way most sons know their father, but blood is really thicker than water" The Veldtman's have another child, Noxolo, 13

Throughout last year, whenever Veldtman heard that a batch of prisoners were about to be released, she went to the docks or Cowley House to greet them, hoping her husband would be on the next ferry

"As soon as I hear there are going to be releases, I get very excited, wondering

whether Sazi will be at the docks this time," she said

"And while I am happy for those who are out, there is always the disappointment that it is not my husband."

Veldtman does worry about reintroducing her husband to "civilian" and domestic life, though

Robben Island prisoners petitioned the state in October last year to allow them access to pre-release counselling. Their request was denied.

The wives, too, have to prepare for having a man in the house again. There is often conflict when men are released after long periods of imprisonment as the women have become used to coping without them

Campaign

The families of prisoners are not relying on the goodwill of the state for their relatives' releases, though. Throughout last year they persistently called for their release, culminating in a "Home by Christmas" campaign. They do not intend easing the pressure this year — campaigns will continue

"Perhaps the slogan, 'Home by Easter' will be more successful," Veldtman chuckled.

When Mrs Sheila Ngoma's husband was sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment in 1987, she told herself he would only be in jail for five years

"I had to cheat myself, I didn't want the 25 years to affect me or I would have ended up in Valkenberg (psychiatric hospital)," she said

"I could only deal with five years at a time"

Like Veldtman, Ngoma was also pregnant when her husband was detained

"In a way I was glad I was pregnant. It kept me busy and sane"

When the February 2 speech was made last year, it was like Ngoma's — five-year prediction had come true

But a year later, Ngoma is pinning her hopes on release by April 1991, although she will not allow herself to be disappointed if her husband is not home by then

She believes the government has no just reason for continuing to jail political prisoners

"The ANC has done everything the government has asked it to do and more. They even suspended the armed struggle," Ngoma said. The government has not kept its word, it's very frustrating

"The government only concentrates on talking to the ANC — they don't realise that we are the ANC. The ANC is people with lives and families, and it's cruel to treat us this way," Ngoma said

By Rehana Rossouw

A REPORT released by progressive health workers last week highlights the urgent need for pre-release counselling for all political prisoners still incarcerated in South Africa's jails

Health workers report that the mental health situation for political prisoners has reached "crisis proportions" and requires immediate intervention from independent health care workers

"Pre-release counselling is urgently required to reduce prisoners' anxieties about their impending release, to prevent psychiatric cases from developing either before or after they are set free and

'Prisoners need counselling urgently'

South 31/11 - 6/2/91

to make their reintegration process as smooth as possible," the report read.

The urgent request for counselling originally came in a petition signed by 180 political prisoners on Robben Island in October last year

The petition asked the prison authorities to allow six counselling professionals from progressive health organisations to visit Robben Island and meet with a delegation of prisoners' representatives

The prison authorities denied the request. The call for pre-release counselling has been taken up by progressive health care organisations such as the Emergency Services Group (ESG), the

National Medical and Dental Association (Namda) and the Organisation for Appropriate Social Services in South Africa (OASSSA)

"The mechanism used by prison authorities for releasing political prisoners has exacerbated the situation

"In December 1990, 30 prisoners were released with little or no advance warning. On Christmas Eve one prisoner was given a mere 15 minutes' notice of his impending release

Health workers report that there appears to be a direct correlation between the manner in which political prisoners are released and their inability to cope

with their first few hours of freedom

Prisoners who are given adequate warning notice manifest far fewer problems than those who have been informed of their release with little or no warning

One Robben Island prisoner, who was given 90 minutes to pack all his belongings, say goodbye to his cellmates and board the next ferry to Cape Town harbour, seemed "shell-shocked" for the next 24 hours

In anticipation of their releases, prisoners have expended their visit quotas, their funding has dried up prematurely and their high hopes for release have gone unfulfilled

"Compounding all these stresses has been the widespread dissatisfaction over the indemnity process," the report states

"One political prisoner on Robben Island summed up the feelings of his inmates when he said this period of confusion, uncertainty, heightened expectations and lack of information was more traumatising for him than his arrest, detention, torture, trial and his imprisonment combined."

A spokesperson for the Department of Correctional Services said the report had been received and is being studied so that the "appropriate action can be taken"

SOUTH's Repression Dossier focuses on political trials, detentions, bannings and restrictions — measures used by the state against opponents in South Africa. This dossier has been compiled from information supplied by lawyers and relatives of detainees, and publications produced by the Repression Monitoring Group and the Human Rights Commission.



This focus was made possible by the support of the **FOUNDATION FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE**

Rules relaxed for Island prisoners

By GAYE DAVIS Cape Town

ROBBEN Island prison authorities have agreed to certain concessions for political prisoners during their last days in jail after a four-month campaign by health and human rights organisations in the Western Cape.

But a primary demand — that of pre-release counselling — has still to be met.

In a marked departure from Prisons Service (now the Department of Correctional Services) policy, seven Islanders were this week informed they would be released some time during February.

Although there is no indication that other prisoners will be given similar early warning, the move follows strenuous protest by organisations assisting political prisoners and their families and Robben Islanders themselves.

Last week, political prisoners on the island wrote to the International Committee of the Red Cross, protesting against the way in which releases were being handled.

The letter told how, on Christmas Eve, a prisoner was released with only 15 minutes warning in which to pack his belongings, say goodbye to his fellow prisoners and prepare emotionally for his release.

In the past month, some 40 prisoners have been released with little advance warning and no formal notification to their attorneys or families.

According to the Liaison Committee for the Release of Political Prisoners, Robben Island authorities have now informed prisoners that certain rules will be relaxed during their final days in prison. Thirty-four prisoners who had not received contact visits can now do so, each prisoner has been granted an extra 12 visits a year and may now receive an unlimited number of letters, although these are still scrutinised by prison officials and may not be handed over during visits.

And for the first time, prisoners have been granted telephone privileges. Group A prisoners can make one 10-minute call a month while Group B prisoners can exchange visits for a call.

According to Terence Dowdall, coordinator of counselling services for released prisoners and their families, pre-release counselling is essential to enable prisoners to make a swift adjustment to life outside.

By refusing to grant such counselling, prison authorities were obstructing released prisoners' readjustment to society — yet these were people destined to play an important role politically, Dowdall said.

●The Department of Correctional Services replies: "The department constantly endeavours through research, planning and development to maintain an efficient prison practice. In this process the privilege system was also revised and certain adaptations made.

The revised privilege system approved

during October 1990 is applicable to all prisoners and therefore the statement that Robben Island prison authorities agreed to certain concessions for political prisoners during their last days in prison after a four-month campaign is not true.

In principle it must be emphasised that the department is concerned about the well-being of all prisoners in its care and consequently prisons are managed and prisoners dealt with responsibly and professionally with this as a basic point of departure bearing in mind the restriction and limitations of the realities of imprisonment. Prisoners due for release are therefore also afforded all assistance possible within the ambit of administrative and practical realities that may prevail from time to time.

Prisoners and their relatives are normally advised in advance of pending releases. Lately, of course, it has happened that releases of prisoners have been approved with immediate effect, obviously necessitating a deviation from standard procedures. In such cases prisoners are informed immediately on receipt of such release notification and the relatives and/or Cowley House officials/attorneys, as the case may be, are also notified and arrangements made for their release.

For obvious reasons the medical and psychiatric treatment of prisoners is the responsibility of the department. Medical doctors visit Robben Island regularly and attend to the health needs of all prisoners. The treatment prescribed by doctors is meticulously complied with, including the referral of patients to specialists, psychiatrists, hospitals and whatever treatment programme is deemed necessary.

Red tape 'delaying' the release of prisoners 253

BIP 6/2/91

LAWYERS working to secure the release of about 2 000 "political prisoners" complain the process is being frustrated by bureaucratic delays.

"The bureaucracy is monstrously clumsy," a Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) spokesman said yesterday.

Government and the ANC agreed last year that political prisoners must be freed from jail and exiles allowed to come home by April 31 before negotiations could begin.

The LHR spokesman said a small Justice Department office was battling through applications which had to be referred to Attorneys-General, prison authorities, and in some cases, police.

A memorandum on each case had to be prepared for President F W de Klerk, who has the authority to approve applications.

De Klerk might refer the application back to a consulting body made up of ANC and government members, who then referred it back to the president for his final decision, the spokesman said.

To date only 300 of an estimated 40 000 exiles have come home, even though 1 700 have been granted indemnity. These fell into the category of people who left the country illegally.

They had been warned that they would have to seek indemnity in respect of other offences they committed.

Lawyers say several exiles have been arrested or detained on their return to the country "There is a growing trend of exiles being detained as soon as they get home," a Human Rights Commission

PATRICK BULGER

spokesman said.

Exiles were being asked when they left the country, and where and how they were trained.

Only one exile — Jason Sishuba — has been granted unconditional indemnity from prosecution. His alleged offence, stealing a typewriter and a duplicating machine from a Soweto school and escaping from custody, is relatively minor. However, lawyers say his indemnity signals that the process of granting indemnity on an individual basis has at least started.

Lodged

The newly formed Political Prisoner Release Programme — run by human rights attorneys — says about 2 000 people qualify as "political prisoners".

Project co-ordinator Jody Kollapen says his organisation lodged about 50 indemnity applications for prisoners in December. Another 25 applications for death row prisoners are being lodged today.

The group believes government has all facts regarding the prisoners at its disposal and that there is no reason for delays.

The group intends writing to every political prisoner in the country in an attempt to get each to fill in indemnity forms.

Continuing disagreement within the ANC-government working group on the armed struggle is believed to be further complicating a rapid release programme

Popcru seeks affiliation

■ Lieutenant Gregory Rockman's Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union (Popcru) — involved in last year's big prison warders' strike — has applied to Cosatu for affiliation. (25) (253)

The application is to be discussed at Cosatu's central executive committee meeting at the weekend. Given the place of Popcru's membership in the state security apparatus, the issue is not a straightforward one for Cosatu.

However, Cosatu spokesman Neil Coleman stressed that there was a history of co-operation between the organisations and that Popcru's "progressive role was appreciated by the federation's members". (253)

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ANC pair to wed in prison

JOHANNESBURG — Convicted ANC Broedersroom members Damian de Lange and Susan Westcott are expected to marry later today in Pretoria Central Prison, a friend of the Westcott family said yesterday.

The Dept of Correctional Services, however, declined to confirm whether the couple were to be married.

De Lange, 33, and Westcott, 25, are presently serving prison sentences of 25 and 18 years respectively for acts of terrorism, including a bomb attack which injured 16.

The family said the wedding service would be performed in the women's prison section at 11am.

Broederstroom two to marry in jail

By TSHOKOLO wa MOLAKENG (253)
THE bells won't ring at Pretoria Central when a quiet — but joyous — ceremony takes place today

Susan Westcott and Damien de Lange, who made headlines in the "Broederstroom III" trial, will tie a different kind of knot at 11am

The two were sentenced to a total of 43 years imprisonment. They were found guilty of terrorism after arms and explosives were found at a Broederstroom farmhouse.

WIMAC 812-1412191
Westcott (26) met De Lange, who is 12 years her senior, at her home in Swaziland. It is understood that he "recruited" her to the African National Congress

The marriage is to be conducted by Reverend Paul Verryn. He is not new to behind-the-bars marital ceremonies, having conducted two others involving political prisoners.

The Westcott /De Lange marriage "expresses their love. It also proves that their love transcends all barriers society tries to put between them", said Verryn

But he said there was a sad note to the marriage as the newly-weds would not spend their formative conjugal years together.

The ceremony will take place in the women's section and will be attended by the couple's parents.

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE

STRANGER MBALATHI (32) has been held under section 29 of the Internal Security Act at Duiwelskloof Prison near Tzaneen since July last year.

A local African National Congress member, he was detained in Johannesburg along with eight others. Lawyers have been denied access to Mbalathi, although his family has seen him. He told his parents he was being pressurised into becoming a state witness in a case involving the shooting of policemen at NkoaNkoa and Lenyenye near Tzaneen in the early hours of June 15/16. *W/Ment 8/2-14/2/91*

Mbalathi's lawyer says he has been detained for short periods before, and he is unemployed.

'Wit Wolf' Strydom still expects to be executed

By Mike Siluma
Star Bureau *Star 11/2/91*

LONDON — Convicted mass murderer and self-styled "Wit Wolf" Barend Strydom still expects to be executed, despite the Government's suspension of the death sentence.

This was revealed by Strydom's wife, Karen, in an interview published in The Sunday Times yesterday.

Strydom was sentenced to death for the murder of eight blacks in Pretoria two years ago. *(253)*

Speaking to The Sunday Times' Johannesburg correspondent, Andrew Hogg, after visiting her husband on Death Row, Mrs Strydom insisted that Strydom was a political prisoner who should qualify for a pardon which Pretoria has accepted as a prelude to a negotiated settlement. *(254)*

"He wrote to (President) F W de Klerk a year ago saying he had laid down the armed struggle. He still expects to be executed.

"If the Government is truly concerned about peace in the land they must also give in to the Right. They can't just ignore him. There is always the possibility that they will just see him as a mass murderer, but I have never seen any madness there.

"It wasn't just that he walked on to the street and got his gun out. He planned it for two weeks before and he was alone for a week on the veld to get him in the mental condition to do it," said Mrs Strydom, who met her husband when they were teenagers attending right-wing meetings.

Asked if her husband now regretted what he did, she replied. "He acted in a kind of war between the ANC and the white people in South Africa. He wanted to show that the Boers will act if our people are killed... It was symbolic."

Explaining why she, her husband and their families left the AWB, she said: "It was just talk, talk, talk. But when people act, the leadership doesn't support them."

Ciskei leader berates 'elements' in ANC

By Helen Grange

Ciskei ruler Brigadier Oupa Gqozo has suggested that ANC elements might have been behind the latest coup attempt in the homeland.

In an interview with The Star yesterday, Brigadier Gqozo said his government was angry over the evident intimidation of his top defence officers by certain political elements.

"The top military men involved were operating under instructions and feared retribution," he said.

The Ciskeian government had launched intensive investigations into the "whole revolutionary trend" in Ciskei. Specific elements in the ANC were misusing their platform, he claimed.

However, the dissident soldiers arrested, including the head of the Ciskei Defence Force, Brigadier Andrew Jamangile, would not be spared the "serious charges



Brigadier Oupa Gqozo . . . dissident soldiers arrested will not be spared charges of treason.

of treason" against them.

At least seven rebel Ciskeian soldiers had been arrested so far.

The coup attempt, on Saturday afternoon, was foiled when top military leaders failed to get the Ciskeian soldiers on their side. A shoot-

out followed and a number of officers escaped.

Brigadier Gqozo said there was a problem with the top military leadership now the top structures had been "contaminated"

Following the previous coup attempt, Brigadier

Gqozo warned, in response to a suggestion that the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto We Sizwe, had planned the coup, that it would be unwise of MK chief Chris Hanu to try as there would be a military confrontation.

● In a statement to Sapa yesterday, Minister of Foreign Affairs Pik Botha said the Ciskei Defence Force had managed to bring the situation under control without the participation of the 60 SA Defence Force personnel deployed to meet the Ciskei's call for assistance.

He said the SA Government would help in restructuring the Ciskeian government to increase civilian participation.

He called on all civilian, traditional and military leaders in the Ciskei and elsewhere to put aside their differences and rivalries and contribute towards, and commit themselves, to peace and stability.

17 m held for influx control

Crime Staff Star 11/2/91.

More than 17 million people were arrested under the Influx Control regulations between 1921 and 1986, Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok said in Cape Town on Friday.

It was against this background that the Ministry was trying to change the image and role of the police, he said.

Mr Vlok said the police wanted to be seen as the protectors of country's citizens, but for many years had been bound by the Police Act having to enforce the laws of the country — even when people hated them for it.

Mr Vlok said today's police had to protect and be the friend of all South Africans.

Mr Vlok's speech was part of the campaign to build bridges between police and the people in order to fight crime more effectively

US televangelists are heretics, claims WCC

CANBERRA — American television evangelists were branded heretics today by delegates at the Seventh Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC).

"I have denounced the use of TV to domesticate people with the gospel that has very little to do with the gospel of Jesus Christ," Rene Padilla, a Baptist minister from Argentina, told reporters.

"I do not agree with it I think it is heretical."

American television evangelists were commercialising religion, said Walter Arnold, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany. He is a member of the WCC central committee.

"We on the continent are trying to nourish different ways of pushing the gospel through the media because I am of the opinion those (American) programmes are highly commercialised," Mr

Arnold said.

"We should be very careful about mixing the gospel with those modern forms of commercialism. I think the Church must look for different terms of presenting the gospel through the media."

Both agreed the religious differences between evangelical Christians and ecumenicals were narrowing.

Mr Padilla said the stereotypical evangelist was a rightwing capitalist who interpreted the Bible literally. The stereotype of an ecumenical was a left-winger concerned with social issues.

But he said most people no longer fell into such rigid categories.

"Now you don't find harsh fighting between people who are affiliated with the world of evangelism or the (ecumenical) leaders of the World Council of Churches," said Mr Arnold. — Reuter.

Piet 'Skiet' on hunger strike

Staff Reporter Star 11/2/91. (253)

Leading Orde Boerevolk (OB) member Piet "Skiet" Rudolph stopped eating at Pretoria Central Prison today to protest against his treatment by the Government.

"He is handled like a criminal. He has to see his family, friends and lawyer through a glass panel," OB spokesman Coenraad Vermaak said.

"He is not allowed physical contact with them."

Mr Rudolph was also protesting against "the Government's refusal to discuss his position", Mr Vermaak said.

OB members Leonard Veenendal, Craig Barker and Arthur Archie ended a hunger strike earlier this month.

Mr Rudolph faces several charges of terrorism, including an attack on the British Embassy in Pretoria last year.

Mr T LANGLEY Mr Speaker, a comprehensive statement will be made shortly

Prisoners rearrested

*3 Adv J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Law and Order +

(a) How many of the prisoners released from prisons in the Republic since 2 February 1990 before they had served the full terms of imprisonment imposed on them for crimes against the security of the State have since then been arrested by the South African Police for the alleged commission of crimes and (b) what was the nature of the alleged crimes as a result of which they were rearrested?

ANSWERED 12/2/91 BSE
†THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

Crime statistics are not kept in such a format that the requested information can be obtained from it. To acquire information, individual arrests countrywide would have to be researched. Such a task would not only be time-consuming, but would take place to the detriment of other more important police duties. I can therefore not supply the hon member with the information requested.

†Mr T LANGLEY Mr Speaker, arising from the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, would he say that 500 to 700 policemen to guard a Minister or a Deputy Minister at a public meeting would be more important than for example, answering this question and obtaining this information, or not?

†THE DEPUTY MINISTER Mr Speaker, that depends on the threat posed by the people attending the meeting and on their disposition. If he is referring to the hon the State President's meeting at Bethlehem, I can answer the hon member right away. Nowhere near 700 people were appointed to attend the meeting to protect the hon the State President. The exact number is at the disposal of the department. Unfortunately I do not have it with me, but if the hon member were to table a question he would be furnished with the exact number.

In reply to the further question, there are more than 900 police stations. Each year more than 100 000 people are arrested and instructing all those policemen to gather the information the hon member wants, would be an impossible task.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Pension fund shortfalls

*5 Dr W J BOTHA asked the Minister of Finance +

- (1) What is the total liability of the State in respect of pension fund shortfalls,
- (2) whether the Government made any provision for pension fund shortfalls in respect of the 1990-91 financial year, if so, for what amount,
- (3) whether this amount is sufficient to cover the above-mentioned shortfalls, if not, (a) for what reasons was this amount decided on and (b) what steps does the Government intend taking to make provision for the remaining shortfalls?

B8E
†THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr J A van Wyk)

- (1) The *actuarial shortfall* amounts to R30 449 000 000,00
- (2) Yes—R1 024 444 000,00
- (3) No

(a) The amount was determined on the basis of the availability of funds as well as in view of the remedial steps the Government contemplates

(b) Final steps have not yet been decided upon but the Government intends thorough investigations in this regard, in consultation with experts from the private sector and with the necessary actuarial inputs

†Mr S C JACOBS Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply in respect of these shortfalls on the pension fund, I want to ask him what his comment is concerning a remark in the Report of the Auditor-General where regarding the realization of investments it is said that the returns on those investments only yielded R352 million and the losses on those investments amount to R562 million. In other words the losses were greater than the returns on the realization of these investments.

†THE DEPUTY MINISTER Mr Speaker, I will not be able to reply to that specific question of the hon member. However, a committee has been appointed, in fact, to look at the reasons for the shortfalls and how the shortfalls may be corrected in future. An interim report has al-

ready been submitted to the Cabinet, of which they accepted certain parts and they gave certain instructions for further investigation. They have also involved the private sector so that their expertise may be harnessed to draw up a dispensation for our pensions that will be more reasonable and acceptable.

†Dr W J BOTHA Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, it is so that he told me what amount have been provided for but at this rate it will take about 30 years to realize these shortfalls. That is why I would like to ask the hon the Deputy Minister whether they have a certain period of time in mind within which these shortfalls will be realized?

†THE DEPUTY MINISTER Mr Speaker, the point is exactly that the committee must make remedial suggestions which will have the effect that it will not take 30 years as the hon member's arithmetical calculation will have it, but that the shortfalls will be realized at an earlier stage. That is in fact the idea behind the investigation by this committee. [Interjections]

†Mr J H VAN DER MERWE Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, can he tell us whether the State Pension Fund is bankrupt, yes or no? [Interjections]

†THE DEPUTY MINISTER Mr Speaker, the hon member may ask that question on another day. [Interjections]

†Mr H D K VAN DER MERWE Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, may I ask him who the members of this committee are? [Interjections]

†THE DEPUTY MINISTER Mr Speaker, I know that the chairman of this committee is a Mr Robson. He is the Director-General of the Administration House of Assembly, but I do not know who the other members of the committee are. [Interjections]

I want to repeat that this committee received further instructions from the Cabinet, and they will also involve the private sector with the object of making the committee larger and more objective, as well as getting the expertise of the private sector. [Interjections]

If the names of the committee members are important to the hon member we will provide

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

him with them with the greatest pleasure [Inter-
sections] 12/2/91
Mr S C JACOBS Mr Speaker, further arising
out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, I
understand that he cannot now tell us how it
happens that regarding realized investments
there is a loss above a return, but will the hon the
Deputy Minister release a public statement on
the matter some time, and I refer him to page 306
of the Report of the Auditor-General

The DEPUTY MINISTER Mr Speaker, the
hon member may ask a specific question on the
matter and then we can give him a specific reply
to it

Prison services: apartheid abolished

*6 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of
Correctional Services 12/2/91

Whether he recently made a statement to the
effect that apartheid in the prison services was
being abolished, if so, what specific steps have
been taken to give effect to this statement in
relation to the (a) accommodation and treatment
of prisoners, (b) housing of prison officials, (c)
recreational facilities available to such officials
and (d) employment and promotion policy and
practice within his department?

**The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CORREC-
TIONAL SERVICES**

(a) I announced on 27 April 1990 during the
debate on the Prisons Vote that legisla-
tion would be tabled to remove manda-
tory segregation in prisons based on race
Section 23 of the Prisons Act, 1959 (Act 8
of 1959), was consequently amended to
the extent that segregation in prisons is
no longer applied on racial grounds. All
references in the Act to race and colour
have also been removed. These amend-
ments were published in the Government
Gazette on 11 July 1990

The meaning of this amendment of sec-
tion 23 of the Prisons Act is that decisions
on the allocation of prisoners to different
prisons, sections and cells, would hence-
forth be taken without having to consider
race as a mandatory criterion but with due

**Old Crossroads/Khayelitsha: MPs refused
entrance**

*7 Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Law
and Order +

(1) Whether the Commissioner of Police in
the Western Cape recently refused that
permission be granted to certain members
of Parliament to enter the Black town-
ships of Old Crossroads and Khayelitsha,
if so, (a) who are the members of Parla-
ment and (b) for what reasons was per-
mission refused, in each case,

(2) whether any of these members were ar-
rested in the residential areas concerned,
if so, (a) who are these members and (b)
for what reasons, in each case?

B13E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

(1) Yes

(a) Mr J van Eck

(b) In the period immediately preceding
the declaration of the relevant areas
as unrest areas in terms of section 5A
of the Public Safety Act of 1953, Act
3 of 1953, the atmosphere was ex-
tremely tense, especially in Khayelit-
sha. Several people were killed in the
preceding period and much damage
was done to property. These cir-
cumstances in particular gave rise to
the Unrest Regulations being de-
clared for the areas, including Old
Crossroads and Khayelitsha. It was
under these circumstances that the
South African Police were doing
their utmost to keep the sensitive
situation under control.

The tension and unrest were due
mainly to the persistent efforts of
certain organizations to dissolve the
existing, legally elected local com-
mittees and for its members to re-
sign. It is common knowledge that
Mr Van Eck is opposed to the
present system of local authorities
and supports the attempts of these
organizations. The residents of the
relevant areas who support the sys-
tem are antagonistic towards him.
On 15 October 1990 he was also
attacked in Crossroads by a group of

women who wanted to display their
objection to his presence. This makes
his presence in these areas not only
undesirable, but also creates the po-
tential for unrest incidents, distur-
bances and public violence.

On 25 October 1990 Mr van Eck was
also in the presence of certain groups
in Khayelitsha who immediately af-
ter his departure, threw stones at
members of the South African Po-
lice.

It is for these reasons that Mr Van
Eck was prohibited in terms of Un-
rest Regulation 7(b)(vi) from enter-
ing those areas where the Unrest
Regulations were in force.

(2) Yes

(a) Mr J van Eck

(b) Mr Van Eck was arrested in terms of
the provisions of Unrest Regulation
2 and in accordance with this provi-
sion removed from the unrest area.
The officer who arrested and re-
moved Mr Van Eck from the area
was of the opinion that Mr Van Eck's
presence there could contribute to
public disturbance, disorderliness or
public violence.

UNHCR monitoring of refugees

*8 Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Home
Affairs

(1) Whether the United Nations High Com-
mission for Refugees will be allowed to
monitor, from within South Africa, the
return of refugees, if not, why not, if so,
from what date,

(2) whether there will be any restrictions
governing its activities, if so, (a) what
restrictions and (b) why?

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(1) and (2) The extent of possible involve-
ment by the United Nations High Com-
mission for Refugees within the Republic
of South Africa, if any, has not been
finally resolved and discussions in this
regard are being continued.

Piet Skiet's food strike confirmed

253

Staff Reporter *Sta 12/2/91*

Piet "Skiet" Rudolph began a hunger strike yesterday, a Correctional Services Department spokesman confirmed last night.

He was not taking solid food, the spokesman said.

Hunger strikers were warned of the adverse effects of not taking food, the spokesman added, and said they were treated strictly according to internationally accepted guidelines.

They were kept in single-cell accommodation but not in isolation, and were allowed non-contact visits from friends and family, within certain limits.

In certain cases, the head of the prison could decide to deviate from this norm, said the spokesman.

on jails amnesty

Sowetan 12/2/91

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LARGE numbers of detainees are still in South African jails and more people are being arrested, despite Government promises made a year ago to release political prisoners.

The precise terms that determine who is eligible for pardon or indemnity remain obscure and sometimes arbitrary.

It is estimated that somewhere between 1 000 and 2 500 people are currently in custody for "politically motivated offences".

Kidnap

They include a senior ANC member called Ebrahim Ismael Ebrahim, who was kidnapped from his home in Swaziland in 1986, allegedly by the South African police, and charged with treason and sabotage.

Another is John Vusumuzi Nene, jailed for life in 1977 under the Internal Security Act and still on Robben Island, having spent only 16 months out of prison since 1963.

A third is Litha Timothy Mlahleki, sentenced at the age of 19 to 42 years in prison for sabotage and attempted murder.

Mlahleki has been on frequent hunger strikes

SOWETAN Correspondent

and has been allegedly repeatedly assaulted and abused by warders

A precise number of detainees is impossible, given the continuing disagreement over what constitutes a "political" offence, as well as the South African Government's refusal to disclose exact information

Strict censorship is imposed under the Prisons Act

The Harare Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly of the UN and the Non-Aligned Movement, identified the release of political prisoners as one of the steps necessary to create a climate for negotiations in South Africa.

Process

The process was advanced last February when President F.W. de Klerk undertook to repeal the fundamental laws of apartheid, and it continued throughout the year in a series of meetings, minutes, and working parties

Since last February, prisoners have been emerging continuously from the jails. But only a small number are released at a time, and seemingly without a coherent policy, leading to confusion and

suspicion among prisoners' families.

Political prisoners fall into several categories. There are those held

for "crimes against the security of the state", others convicted of treason under the common law, and others held for offences against public order.

Treason

Only two offences have been accepted as "purely political" treason, not involving a common crime; and the "dissemination of subversive literature"

* The cases of those detained for leaving the country without valid travel documents, or imprisoned solely for belonging to a banned organisation, were by agreement reviewed early.

All other political prisoners are approached case by case, taking into account such things as the context in which their offence took place, and the nature of its political objective

For the many political prisoners who do remain in jail, maltreatment, poor conditions and denial of many basic rights persist

Piet 'Skiet' resumes his hunger strike

8/12/91 (253)
PRETORIA — A spokesman for Correctional Services confirmed last night that Orde Boerevolk leader Piet "Skiet" Rudolph had resumed his hunger strike at Pretoria Central Prison.

"It can be confirmed that Mr Rudolph has not been taking solid foods since February 11. It does occur from time to time that prisoners refuse to take meals for shorter or longer periods. Prisoners

who refuse to eat are warned of the adverse effect and they are treated strictly in accordance with the internationally accepted guidelines pertaining to the handling of such prisoners."

The spokesman said all awaiting-trial prisoners were treated alike.

Rudolph had said he was resuming his hunger strike to protest against his treatment by government. — Sapa.

D-day looms for power cuts

RESIDENTS of two Pretoria townships have until Friday to pay more than R1,5m or face electricity switch-offs

Atteridgeville administrator Ernie Jacobson said yesterday residents of Atteridgeville and Saulsville should pay their latest accounts on Friday to avoid switch-offs. 8/12/91

Jacobson said power would have been cut yesterday had the Atteridgeville council not diverted R500 000 from "another department to pay a portion of the overdue electricity account to the Pretoria municipality"

Atteridge owes Pretoria about R1,7m

He said the reason why he was appealing to residents to pay their latest accounts, and not interim rates agreed on with the Atteridgeville-Saulsville Residents' Organisation (Asro), was to generate a higher cash inflow.

"The interim rates cannot raise enough cash to avoid the electricity switch-offs," he said.

The TPA recently overruled interim

WILSON ZWANE

rates Jacobson negotiated with Asro.

He said a meeting between himself and Asro, scheduled for yesterday, had been postponed until next week

Asro secretary Reaves Mabitsi said his organisation postponed the meeting because its executive committee members were unable to attend

Meanwhile, Mamelodi mayor Simon "Drie" Mokone has appealed to residents to make a "concerted effort" to pay their accounts "faithfully and punctually to avoid unpleasant consequences".

"About 50% of the residents paid their accounts last month and as a result of irregular payments and non-payments for services we owe the Pretoria City Council about R2,8m.

"Should the situation not improve there will be a danger of power cuts."

The Mamelodi council paid R1,6m to the Pretoria City Council last Friday, thereby averting an electricity cut, also threatened for yesterday

One snag to lifting curbs - US envoy

THE release of political prisoners is the only issue standing in the way of the United States lifting sanctions against South Africa, says US Ambassador Mr William Swing

Speaking at a business seminar in Johannesburg yesterday, Swing said there was widespread recognition that South Africa was moving away from apartheid and that this would relate sanc-

14/2/1971
tions to yesterday's issue while job creation would become the main issue in the country. (53) (53)

He warned, however, that apartheid could disappear in practice but the devastating effects of the policy would still be felt

Swing said only a growing economy and social reconstruction could remove the effects of apartheid. - Sapa.

Johannesburg's northern suburbs, left at the weekend to attend a funeral in his home town of Potchef-

in 1988 in which la was allegedly involved

Police said four men armed with two handguns and an AK-47 rifle entered

● To Page 2 ■

Stark ceremony as prisoners wed (253)

Star Africa Service

MBABANE — Two long-term terrorism prisoners, Susan Westcott and Damian de Lange, have married in the Pretoria Central Prison

Westcott is serving 18 years for her part in plotting to overthrow the Government, as a member of the "Broederstroom Five" group

De Lange, a former journalist, is serving 25 years for his part in the plot. Both were arrested in May 1987, and sentenced in 1989

There were no flowers, no wedding cake, no music and no cameras at the ceremony on Friday, on the instruc-

tions of the prison authorities. The only guests were the parents of the bride and the groom

Their stark wedding ceremony was described by the bride's father, John Westcott, who has been a teacher for many years in Swaziland

Star 14/2/91
Hinted

He hinted at an early release for his daughter and new son-in-law, saying he hoped they would be freed this year, possibly in April

Susan Westcott was educated in Swaziland, went to university in Britain, and taught for some time in Swaziland after she graduated, and before she became fully

active as an African National Congress member

Mr Westcott said "Susan wore a white linen suit, white stockings and white shoes.

"Her wedding ring was sent to her as a present by staff members of the Mbabane primary school where she once taught. It was a gold band, with a double row of diamond chips"

He said his daughter appeared optimistic about her own position, and about the dramatic changes in South Africa since her arrest

She and her husband remain committed ANC members. Both have been visited in prison by ANC deputy leader Nelson Mandela

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Warders in firing line

CSX

Sow/L 14/2 - 29/2/91

MORE than 400 Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union (Popcu) members may lose their jobs with the Department of Correctional Services.

The prison warders from Cape Town, Mossel Bay, Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown, Worcester and Johannesburg, face charges of misconduct after participating last March in a strike led by controversial Popcu founder member Lieutenant Gregory Rockman, who was subsequently discharged from the SA Police.

They are to appear before their respective boards of inquiry from February 25.

Seventeen workers have already been dismissed in King William's Town and East London, according to Mr Peter Loggenberg, Popcu general secretary.

Prosecute

In Cape Town, 75 Popcu members working for the Department of Correctional Services at Pollsmoor Prison will appear before a board of inquiry this week.

But according to Loggenberg, his organisation made an urgent application to the Supreme Court to prevent the inquiry from taking place. Popcu is objecting to the participation of some of the members of the board of inquiry who are high-ranking officers in the Department.

"Those are the people we are fighting against. They can't be our prosecutor and our judge," said Loggenberg.

An appeal is pending after their Supreme Court application to have the board's membership changed was set aside. Loggenberg said on Wednesday the Department of Correctional Services have indicated that the inquiries will go ahead if papers are not served on them by the end of this week.

The Department of Correctional Services said it could not comment on the investigation by the boards as the "motions and appeals have not been finalised".

Plan on prisoners likely

Sowetan 15/2/91

253

MINISTER of Justice Mr Kobie Coetsee is expected to make a major announcement today on the release of political prisoners, one of the major stumbling blocks in the way to constitutional negotiations.

SOWETAN CORRESPONDENT

A spokesman for the Ministry of Justice said yesterday that no details of the announcement could yet be revealed. The Government and the ANC, in a marathon meeting in Cape Town this week to iron out

hitches in the political process, are believed to have reached agreement on issues hampering the political process. They included the release of political prisoners, the indemnification of exiles and security legislation. Exact figures on the number of security prisoners are not known. The Human Rights Commission believed there were 246 "known" security prisoners, jailed for offences in terms of the Internal Security Act, in South Africa and the

TBVC states. Its number of "estimated" security prisoners was slightly higher on 250. The HRC said there were 1 321 "known" rest prisoners, jailed for offences such as public violence, arson and intimidation". The ANC estimate on political prisoners totalled 2 500 and the organisation believed only about 500 political prisoners had been released since February 2 last year.



COETSEE

7 years jail for MK man

Sowetan 15/2/91

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A SELF-CONFESSED Umkhonto we Sizwe member, Frans Mokomane, was yesterday jailed for effective seven years for the illegal possession of arms and ammunition, all of East Bloc origin.

Mr HJA van Eeden sentenced Mokomane in the Garankuwa Magistrate's Court to a total of 17 years' imprisonment but ordered the sentences on the four counts of possession to run concurrently.

Mokomane was found guilty of possessing two AK-47 assault rifles and jailed for seven years for the offence.

He was jailed for another seven years for possessing 10 RGD5 handgrenades and two years for being found with 122 rounds of ammunition and one year for a Makarov 9mm calibre pistol.

A number of people who attended the hearing wore African National Congress lapel badges, while armed

members of Bophuthatswana's police force took the front benches.

Several armed policemen dressed in riot gear manned at least three roadblocks along streets leading to the court.

During his summary, Van Eeden warned the swelling crowds at the court building that he would not hesitate to summon the police should anyone be seen to be involved in actions calculated to undermine court proceedings. - Sapa.

THOSE LEFT BEHIND ON ISLE OF DESPAIR

CP Correspondent

253

ROB BEN Island has been called many names in its infamous history and now it could be aptly called the Island of Despair by the more than 200 men held there.

A document released by progressive health workers recently says the situation there has become acute.

"Because of the releases, sporting teams have been decimated, the leadership has been removed and those left behind are feeling increasingly abandoned by their political organisations," said the document called *Political Imprisonment, Release and Mental Health: The Case for Pre-release Counselling*.

"In anticipation of their release prisoners have expended their visit quotas long ago, their funding has dried up prematurely, and their high hopes for release have gone unfulfilled."

One prisoner said the uncertainty, confusion and heightened expectations were more traumatising for him than the combined effects of his arrest, detention, torture, trial and imprisonment.

This, said the document, summed up the feeling of his colleagues.

The mental health of prisoners would suffer under the cumulative effect of this uncertainty,

anxiety and disappointment, coupled with the ordinary deprivations associated with prison life.

"Based on reports filtering back through family members and released prisoners, and also based on face-to-face communication with the islanders, there is sufficient reason to believe that the psychological and psychiatric state of political prisoners on Robben Island is a matter of concern and urgency."

Prisoners are complaining of a persistent inability to concentrate on one subject for long periods. Many have abandoned their studies or failed to write exams because of the difficulties experienced in concentrating when release appears imminent.

They are also showing in larger numbers than before, common stress-related reactions such as headaches, psychosomatic illnesses, gastro-intestinal disorders, short temper and frequent anxiety attacks.

"Other telltale signs of the severe stress under which political prisoners are living include memory problems, irritability, wild mood swings, increased interpersonal problems with colleagues and greater reliance on avoidance mechanisms."

The failure of prison authorities to warn prisoners in advance of their release has provoked a number of severe stress reactions.

One man released on December 15 hid in the toilet all night because he did not want to face saying goodbye to his fellow prisoners.

Arguing for pre-release counselling for prisoners, the liaison committee said this was not only necessary to assist them with psychiatric or psychological problems but "is critically important for every single political prisoner in order to ensure that his or her reintegration into society is as smooth as possible".

Last October more than 180 Islanders signed a petition calling on prison authorities to allow a delegation of counsellors to visit a group of nine colleagues to discuss their counselling needs. Permission was refused.

"In a nation where access to mental health information and care is not available on a wide scale for the majority of citizens, the call for pre-release counselling by 180 political prisoners still serving their jail sentences is indeed a landmark event in the provision of mental health care for the black community."

The petition, said the document, took on greater significance if it was realised that many political prisoners emerged from incarceration to serve in key leadership positions in their organisations.

CP News 17/2/71

... in the back of a van - to a Louis Trichardt police station who refused to take him.

They then drove him back to Messina before taking him to the

The youth was due to reappear in court on Tuesday, but his new doctors said he was too sick to appear in court and the case was postponed indefinitely.

ANC unit in jailbreak claim

AN underground unit of the ANC has claimed responsibility for the escape of eight prisoners from police cells at Scottburgh in Natal yesterday.

The prisoners - who included Umgababa ANC treasurer Lee Luthuli and ANC member Joseph Memela - escaped at 5am by sawing through the bars of their cell.

A man who said he spoke for an underground

unit of the ANC later phoned a Durban newspaper claiming responsibility for the escape.

But a Natal regional ANC spokesman has denied ANC knowledge of the jailbreak.

Lawrence Bophela, Percy Bruno, Bhekinkosi Mkuyana, Dumisani Langa, Mxolise Mkhize and Dumisani Majola - awaiting trial on various charges - also escaped. - Sapa

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11/2/79



Mandela misses guards of his prison cell

61024 18/2/91
NELSON Mandela misses some of the prison officials who guarded him during his 27 years in jail, and he has kept in touch with them since his release a year ago.

"I miss some warders and some officials," he told the weekly newspaper, New Nation, in an interview published on Friday. "Although the policy itself was bad, there were warders and officials who really stood out in their concern for us, whose views were that we were human beings."

"I have been in regular contact with five of them. I speak with the Commissioner of Prisons and he has visited me.

"If I had time I would have invited some of them home. They have been very kind to me and have done things which no warder would have been expected to do."

Mandela described one senior prison official as a "very polished chap" and said he had once reported another warder for making noise at night.

"He had ignored my request for him to shut up. Later I regretted the incident because warders, even white ones, are ordinary workers who are exploited like any other."

"There were lots of fights. We would

fight today and apologise the next day," Mandela told New Nation.

Mandela spent the weekend in Gabon. He said after meeting President Omar Bongo and legislators in Libreville on Friday night that the struggle against apartheid was a fight for all Africans.

"Our battle is a battle we all have in common," he said.

"When I return to SA, it will be with the confidence that my work is not futile," he said.

Mandela is on a tour of central African countries — Sapa-Reuter

his many travels abroad, ever said the CP's policy was one of apartheid

Let us forget about apartheid. Apartheid has failed.

It is true that there were tremendously good motives when the Sabra people formulated apartheid. That is true.

It might even have been described by certain of those people—their actions and their motives—as a liberal policy. However, it is a policy that led to injustice. It is a policy that proved to be impractical. It is a policy that focussed on the narrow and the small and the self-interested. It lost sight of what men and women shared. It lost the brotherhood of man. [Time expired]

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS Mr Speaker, I fully agree with the hon member for Berea. It is a pity he does not have more time to analyse objectively the history of apartheid.

*The hon member Mr H D K van der Merwe cannot seem to understand that all the dangers, by which they now feel so threatened, originated and burgeoned under apartheid. Apartheid did not prevent the influx of Black people to the cities. We know that.

Apartheid did not enable the farmers and the factories to manage without Black labour. All of the CP members who have businesses or who are farmers, are fully economically integrated with Black people. They cannot plough without them, they cannot sow without them, they cannot harvest their crops without them, they take their coffee in bed from Black hands, their children are bathed and brought up by Black people, and when they are away from home, the Black people use their baths and toilets. This is the truth. It is as simple as that. [Interjections]

But the CP keep on extolling the virtues of apartheid. There were CP members who were with me in the party. [Interjections]

***THE ACTING SPEAKER** Order! The hon member for Hercules does not have the floor.

***THE MINISTER** They know there were threats of sanctions, and sanctions were imposed when we had apartheid. They know it. There is no factor as threatening to the survival of the Whites as apartheid. [Interjections]

I would go so far as to say that not even the ANC or any other party can, with nationalisation or any other policy or with mass demonstrations, threaten this country as much as the CP with apartheid, for then the Whites are surely doomed. Then they have no future, because if there is a party. [Time expired]

***MR T LANGLEY** Mr Speaker, I listened carefully to the hon the Minister, and he said that the anti-apartheid organisation wants to preserve apartheid. [Interjections] Then he also comes along and says it is in fact the CP which is really going to help the anti-apartheid organisation to survive. [Interjections]

His colleague, the hon the Minister of Constitutional Development—the intellectual on that side, I may add, and the chairman of the Broedertbond and all the other things he was before—preferred to associate his party, the NP, with the anti-apartheid organisation which the hon the Minister of Foreign Affairs described as a communist party and an anti-South African organisation, etc. [Interjections] The hon the Minister of Constitutional Development boasted that the great party, the NP, had now become an anti-apartheid organisation. [Interjections]

I now ask the hon the State President and the hon the Minister of Foreign Affairs whether they told this to the voters of South Africa prior to 6 September 1989. [Interjections] Did they say that? Did they spell out to the voters of South Africa that the builder was going to become the demolisher? That is what he must tell us. What is at issue here is honesty, consistency and political morality. [Interjections] That is the issue. [Interjections]

The hon the Minister's jokes about who does what when the master and mistress are away reminds me of the old liberal party. [Interjections] When I close my eyes, I hear the late Ernie Wentzel speaking and scoffing at the *NP cum suis*. [Interjections]

The fact remains that the NP was the discoverer, the creator and the recipient of the policy of apartheid, which later became separate development. [Interjections]

***MR H D K VAN DER MERWE** Mr Speaker, the hon the Minister will receive many other replies when we come to the debate on his Vote, but the NP, as the anti-apartheid party and the anti-Afrikaner party, is prepared to serve under

an ANC government. [Interjections] The hon the State President said it and that hon Minister told the voters the year before last that the ANC, which is intertwined with the SA Communist Party, was turning to violence in order to seize power in South Africa, to establish a one-party dictatorship, to destroy free enterprise and to deprive people of their religious freedom. [Interjections]

I want to say this to the hon the Minister. Go and tell the outside world that there is a people here in Southern Africa that will not be deceived or misled. [Interjections] There is a people here that will not die, a people that has fought for its survival for many centuries. [Interjections] The hon the Minister must tell them, in the language of the hon Cape leader—the Minister—that the greatest power struggle Africa has ever known will start in Southern Africa the moment there is power-sharing between the multiplicity of peoples in one parliamentary system. They must know it is going to come, and those hon members have declared war against the Afrikaners, the Whites and all those peoples in Southern Africa that seek a continued existence. [Interjections]

***THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS** Mr Speaker, what the hon member Mr H D K van der Merwe really cannot understand is that his arguments have become so comical that no one takes him seriously any more. [Interjections]

If he wants to further the cause of the Afrikaner, he is doing so in such a comical way that it has no credibility. [Interjections] It is precisely under the banner of apartheid that the CP carry on all the time about Afrikaners and the Afrikaners language, but today more people are prepared to speak Afrikaans again because, in their perception, it is no longer the language of the oppressor. [Interjections] They know it.

Under apartheid we were on our way to destroying Afrikaners. [Interjections] That is what we were doing, and that party will still scuttle Afrikaners. [Interjections] If the CP comes to power there will no longer be anyone who will want to use Afrikaans for poetry or songs, listen to the way they speak in that language! [Interjections] Listen to the way they speak and carry on in this House. One will have to use a computer to analyse the gibberish the CP speaks and then ask a linguist and a person who has a feeling for the warmth and attractiveness of a people what they

think of the psychological make-up of people who say such ugly things in such a fine language. [Interjections]

***MR S P BARNARD** Mr Speaker, may I ask the hon the Minister a question?

***THE ACTING SPEAKER** Order! Is the hon the Minister prepared to answer a question?

***THE MINISTER** Mr Speaker, he is wasting my time. [Interjections]

***THE ACTING SPEAKER** Order! The hon member must resume his seat. The hon the Minister may proceed.

***THE MINISTER** They are undermining the Afrikaner all the time.

The message we have is for the Afrikaners, the English-speaking people, the Portuguese, the Germans, the Greeks, the Italians, the Blacks, the Coloureds and the Asians. It is the message from the hon the State President to build one great society that shares common values, that can enjoy its diversity, that can appreciate its languages, and which can jointly build up a strong nation in which we can also, on merits, offer Afrikaner children a future. [Interjections]

However, there are people who are too spineless to compete. They want legislation to protect them against equal competition and to entrench them and their White skins in privileged positions. [Interjections] It is a disgrace, and I look forward to them advancing these arguments during the debate on my Vote. I shall then deal with them further. [Interjections]

Debate concluded

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version

For oral reply

General Affairs

Questions standing over from Tuesday, 12 February 1991

Prisoners released 253
*2 Adv J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Correctional Services † *Hanserd* 19/2/91

(a) How many prisoners have been released from prisons in the Republic since 2 February 1990 before serving the full terms of imprisonment imposed on them for crimes against the security of the State and (b) for what reasons were the prisoners concerned released?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

In reply to the Hon Member's question, I quote the following applicable passage from notes on the process of indemnity and release which was released by me during a press conference on 15 February 1991

"In view of the progress made with finalizing the issues in terms of paragraph 3 of the Pretoria Minute, it is now possible to proceed with further implementation of paragraph 2 of the Pretoria Minute in a phased manner. This paragraph relates to indemnity and release

The current number of security prisoners administratively released since 1 February 1990 is approximately 262

The processing of some 760 applications for release from prison is now in an advanced stage. Some may be released because they fall clearly within the guidelines for political offences. The State President has in fact today confirmed that he has granted a special remission of sentence to 7 such individuals presently incarcerated on Robben Island who would be released within the next few days. Where applicable applications will be referred to the indemnity and release committees who may advise the State President

It must be borne in mind that the facilities of indemnity and release are not only confined to the ANC, but it is also available to other individuals and organizations depending of course on the status of their involvement with the negotiation process and the process of seeking peaceful solutions."

The special remission of sentence which made the release of the number of 262 possible, did not exceed a period of 1 year. In terms of normal release procedures ordinary remission of sentence was also allocated

Further releases will in future obviously require longer periods of special remission—the crime involved will also be of a more extensive and serious nature. It is therefore clear that no one will be able to automatically lay claim to release

†Adv J S PRINSLOO Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, were any of the approximately 262 persons who were released, released under circumstances other than those relating to the implementation of the agreement between the Government and the ANC?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER Mr Speaker, 222 of the 262 who were released, were released in accordance with the normal release procedure. In other words, it was not necessary to grant them a special reduction of sentence. Of those 262 only 127 were granted a special reduction of sentence in terms of section 69, and a large number of them received less than a year's reduction of sentence

†Adv C D DE JAGER Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply and the fact that a request was made last week on 12 February for this question to stand over till today, and in view of the fact that a statement was released to the press on 15 February, I wish to know if the request for the question to stand over was made so that the announcement could be made in the press rather than in Parliament

†The DEPUTY MINISTER Mr Speaker, a special press conference was called so that the matter could be placed in full perspective [Interjections]

†Adv J S PRINSLOO Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, should we deduce from this that 222 of the prisoners who were released, were released on grounds other than those stipulated in the agreement between the Government and the ANC?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER Mr Speaker, all these persons were released in consequence of the Pretoria Minute

†Adv C D DE JAGER Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, have any other persons other than only those belonging to the ANC, PAC or left-wing political groups been released?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER Mr Speaker, I take it the hon member wants to ask if members of right-wing organizations have been released [Interjections]

†The ACTING SPEAKER Order

†The DEPUTY MINISTER Mr Speaker, no persons belonging to the right-wing organizations were released because they did not qualify in terms of the guidelines I have defined [Interjections] in other words, that they would be released after the usual mitigation of sentence plus approximately one year, and not one of them qualified

As far as the other question is concerned, not only the ANC and the PAC but also Cosatu and various other organizations were involved

Indemnity granted

*4 Mr J H VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Justice †

(a) How many persons have been granted indemnity against prosecution in terms of the Indemnity Act, No. 35 of 1990, by the State President since 2 February 1990 and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished? *1912/91* B6E

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE

(Reply partially laid upon the Table with leave of House)

(a) and (b)

On 15 February 1991 during a press conference the Minister of Justice made a statement pertaining to the matters which are being dealt with in the question. With leave of the House I shall lay it upon the Table. The relevant portions read as follows

Notes on the process of indemnity and release Mr H J Coetsee MP, Minister of Justice and of Correctional Services

In view of the progress made with finalizing the issues in terms of paragraph 3 of the Pretoria Minute, it is now possible to proceed with further implementation of paragraph 2 of the Pretoria Minute in a phased manner. This paragraph relates to indemnity and release

1 The current number of security prisoners administratively released since 1 February 1990 is approximately 262

The processing of some 760 applications for release from prison is now in an advanced stage. Some may be released because they fall clearly within the guidelines for political offences. The State President has in fact today confirmed that he has granted a special remission of sentence to 7 such individuals presently incarcerated on Robben Island who would be released within the next few days. Where applicable, applications will be referred to the indemnity and release committees who may advise the State President *1912/91*

2 092 persons have received indemnity in respect of the unlawful leaving of the country

Another three offences were previously identified in respect of which persons automatically receive indemnity without applying therefor. These offences are membership of a previously unlawful organization, the exhibiting or possessing of an emblem of previously unlawful organizations and the contribution to or collection of anything on behalf of a previously unlawful organization. There is therefore unconditional indemnity for those who become or continue to be office bearers, members, or are in possession of articles of previously unlawful organizations, or contributed or solicited or gave anything as a subscription to benefit an unlawful organization. And this could be tens of thousands of people

It has been rumoured that very large numbers of people will require indemnity. Thus far only approximately 3 500 applications have been received

At present I am hailing with the ANC to find a suitable formula for indemnifying those people who have received military training before the cut off date, but who for a considerable time have not been militarily involved. This may effect beneficially up to approximately 80% of the exiles according to an informed estimate

It must be borne in mind that the facilities of indemnity and release are not only confined to the ANC, but are also available to other individuals and organizations depending of course on the status of

Hansard
19/2/91
Counter Officer
Mail Handling Officer
General Clerk
Sorter
Typist
Exchange Superintendent
Telecom Assistant
Telephonist
Clerk
Assistant Administrative Officer
Security Officer
Postman
Part-Time Branch Postmaster
Part-Time Sorter
Senior Telecom Electrician
Technician
Telecom Officer
Assistant Telecom Officer
Senior Telecom Assistant
General Assistant, 1
General Assistant, 2
General Assistant, 3
Cook
Senior Superintendent
Telecom Electrician

(2) No need exists in this regard as no official's services will become redundant

SAP action

*8 Mr P H DE LA REY asked the Minister of Law and Order *Hansard* 19/2/91
Whether members of the South African Police took any action against the persons who, on the day on which Mr Oliver Tambo arrived at the Jan Smuts Airport, allegedly removed the flag of the Republic and replaced it by an ANC flag, if not, why not, if so, what was the nature of the action taken?
B71E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

No, not against any particular person or persons, because those concerned could not be identified in the large crowd

On 13 December 1990 at approximately 13 17, the South African Police noticed that the flag of the Republic in front of the Jan Smuts Airport Building was being replaced by an ANC flag. With the help of, *inter alia*, the Dog Unit, the Police moved into the crowd of approximately 7 000 to 8 000 people and low-

ered a small ANC flag and replaced it with the flag of the Republic *Hansard* 19/2/91

*9 Mr P H DE LA REY asked the Minister of Finance *Hansard* 19/2/91
Petrol/dieseline: amount received
What total amount did the State receive from the sale of (a) petrol and (b) dieseline in the Republic during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available?
B72E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE

In the period 1 January 1990 to 31 December 1990 a net amount of R4 389 million accrued to the State from the sale of petrol and diesel. Itemization amounts cannot be furnished as the Petroleum Products Act 1977, (Act No 120 of 1977) prohibits the disclosure of sale statistics of individual petroleum products

Paul Kruger Memorial Hospital: alterations

*10 Dr W J BOTHA asked the Minister of National Health *Hansard* 19/2/91
Whether any alterations of and/or extensions to the section for Blacks at the Paul Kruger Memorial Hospital in Rustenberg are being planned, if so, (a) what progress has been made in this regard, (b) what total amount has already been appropriated for this purpose and (c) when will these alterations and/or extensions be commenced?
B73E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH

Yes, planning for extensions is taking place,
(a) the Bill of Quantities is nearly completed and the planning is therefore just short of the tender stage,
(b) no amount has been appropriated in the current financial year for this purpose and
(c) if funds are available, probably

Certain person, retirement benefits

*11 Dr W J BOTHA asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs *Hansard* 19/2/91
(1) Whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, received any retirement benefits from the

State when he left the Public Service, if so, what retirement benefits, *Hansard*
(2) whether these benefits were paid in terms of existing regulations, if so, in terms of what regulations, if not,
(3) whether any special arrangements were made in respect of the payment of these benefits, if so, what are the details of these arrangements?
Hansard 19/2/91
B74E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

(1) No, he did not receive retirement benefits from the State, but he did receive a resignation benefit
(2) The resignation benefits was paid in terms of Regulation 13(1) of the Government Service Pension Act, 1973 (Act 57 of 1973),
(3) Not applicable

Pollsmoor prison, purchase of land

*12 Mr J H MOMBORG asked the Minister of Correctional Services *Hansard* 19/2/91
(1) Whether it is the intention to purchase land in Tokai with a view to expanding the Pollsmoor prison, if so,
(2) whether this land has already been purchased, if not, why not, if so, when are the building operations expected to be commenced?
Hansard 19/2/91
B79E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

(1) There is no intention of purchasing land in Tokai. Application was made however to retain land at Westlake, which currently belongs to other State Departments, for the Department of Correctional Services should those State Departments decide to withdraw. No purchase transactions will be involved but only transfer of land
(2) No, no land was purchased in Tokai. Land was however purchased in Retreat (Steenberg) during 1970. Building works will, in all probability and if funds are made available, commence during 1991/92

Suburban trains crime

*13 Mr J H MOMBORG asked the Minister of Law and Order *Hansard* 19/2/91
(1) Whether there has recently been an increasing tendency in crime on suburban trains between Simonstown and Cape Town, if so, what are the relevant details, whether any steps are being taken to combat this crime, if so, what steps?
B80E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

(1) No, during the three months from 1 November 1990 to 31/January 1991, 51 serious crimes were committed on trains between Simonstown and Cape Town, in comparison with 73 crimes during the corresponding period a year previously. This represents a decline of 69,86%
The details are as follows

| | Nov 89 | Dec 89 | Jan 90 | Nov 90 | Dec 90 | Jan 91 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Theft from person | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | — | — |
| Rape | 5 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| Robbery | 12 | 8 | 18 | 6 | 18 | 7 |
| Attempted robbery | — | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Armed robbery | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Attempted murder | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Sodomy | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 19 | 22 | 32 | 11 | 24 | 16 |

(2) In addition to the deployment of mobile units of the South African Police on this, as well as other rail trajectories country-wide, the Rail Commuter Corporation, in co-operation with the South African Police, is at present safeguarding Rail Commuter Stations, which will ensure more effective access control, in order to more effectively keep criminal elements off trains

Extradition of certain persons

*14 Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Justice *Hansard* 19/2/91
(1) Whether a request has been received from the Namibian Government for the extradition of (a) Mr Leonard Veenendal and (b) Mr Darryl Stopforth, if so, with what result,

More political prisoners to be released soon

By ISMAIL LAGARDIEN
Political Correspondent

SEVEN political prisoners will be released from Robben Island within the next couple of weeks

This would bring the number of security prisoners released since February 1 last year to about 270, according to the Department of Justice.

Their names are withheld until their next-of-kin had been informed. The delay in their actual release is purely administrative.

soweto
19/2/91 • **Applications**

In a statement delivered at the weekend, the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, said that the processing of approximately 760 applications for release from prison was in an "advanced stage"

He said that some may be released because they fell within the guidelines for political offences as prescribed by paragraph 3 of the Pretoria Minute

More than 2000 people have received indemnity for leaving the country illegally

(253)

From prison cell to a top advocate

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Soweto 20/2/91

DIKGANG Moseneke relaxes on a burgundy leather coach in his chambers and talks about his experience in detention in 1963.

Moseneke, now 43, was 14 years old at the time.

"If you tapped on your cell wall you could tell if there was someone in the cell next door."

He demonstrates.

"You go boom, boom, boom and remain silent. If there was someone there, he would reply boom, boom, boom."

"Then you would say 'hi' at the cell window."

This was his first experience behind bars and not his last. He would spend 10 years on Robben Island for sabotage

His association with the Pan Africanist Congress goes back to primary school in Atteridgeville, where he was taught by Jafta Masemola, the PAC stalwart who died last year.

Stronghold

Moseneke attended Kilnerton Training Institute in Pretoria, which was closed down because of the Group Areas Act and which was a PAC stronghold.

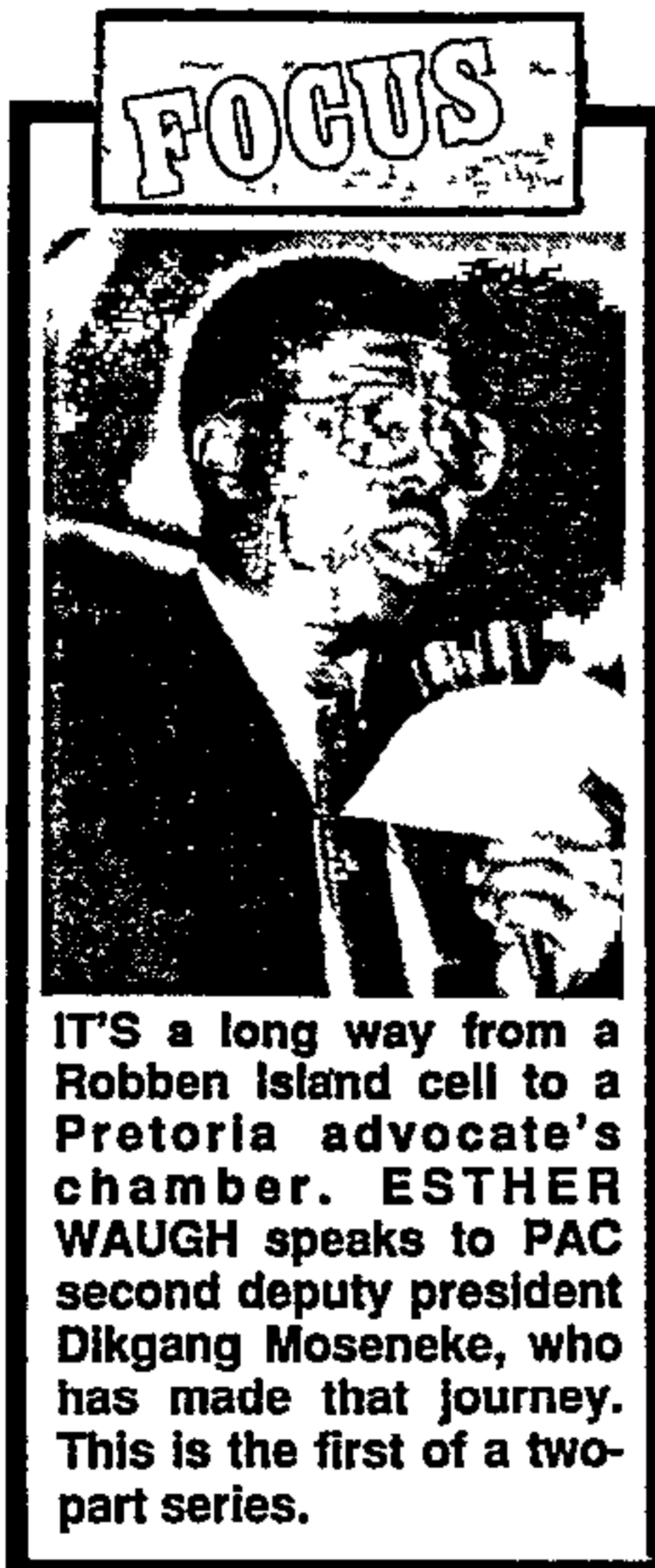
In 1962, Moseneke joined the African Students Union of South Africa, a PAC organisation.

"I signed up at Masemola's house with a number of friends including Mark Shinnars, who is on the PAC National Executive Committee."

On March 21 1963 Moseneke - nearly 15 - was arrested.

"I was picked up at my parents' home at night. Ten or 12 policemen knocked loudly, kicked down the door and covered the windows."

"Many people were arrested that night across the country. The



90-day detention clause had just come into operation with BJ Vorster as Minister of Justice "

Was he surprised by his arrest?

"We had been quite active, holding PAC meetings and recruiting students at Kilnerton and Hofmeyr schools."

"In Atteridgeville the PAC was growing very fast and with the usual enthusiasm of young people there was ample activity."

"So when I heard the police knocking I realised it was in connection with the PAC because I had done nothing else that warranted the attention of the police."

"They arrested almost every known member of the PAC that night."

"I was taken to Erasmus Police Station, near my home, where I

was kept under the 90-day detention clause in solitary confinement until June when we went to court."

His neighbour in the cells was Masemola.

"Jafta was as steadfast as ever and very supportive. He made me understand that if you wage a struggle you must expect casualties."

"The interrogation was vicious. I mean very vicious."

"I still have the marks from the handcuffs. They have gone black but you can still see them," he says rolling up his sleeves.

"The more you try to wrestle with them, the tighter they become."

"It was so bad, I had blood flowing down to my armpits."

"They were big guys and I was a tiny fellow. With handcuffs on you can't fight back."

"They also made me run on the spot singing Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika."

Undress

"First they undress you. You feel naked - psychologically completely exposed. Then they ask you questions."

In June 1964, 16 PAC members went on trial at the Old Synagogue in Pretoria for sabotage, with Masemola as accused number one.

In August Moseneke was convicted of sabotage and jailed for 10 years.

"I was not convicted for any acts of violence. I was convicted for attending meetings where there was conspiracy to overthrow the State."

"I came before Justice Celi-liers Sydney Kentridge as our counsel but could not stay for the whole trial. Jack Unterhalter then appeared for us and ultimately we

had to conduct the trial on our own.

"That was my first taste of what to do in a trial in court - and I vowed to come back."

What were his feelings when he arrived on Robben Island?

"I was terrified, but you have the support of so many political prisoners. At least 95 percent of the guys were PAC members."

"We were some of the first rookies at the prison. There was actually no prison building. We had to build it first, before we were locked up."

Was he bitter?

"I was at first, but I understood that the ruling class has a duty to protect its own interest. If you have power you seek to protect it."

"I understood it was a racist undemocratic government that sought to protect its existence and that was the way."

"I was young. I had no wife or even a girlfriend. I was in Standard 8 when I was arrested."

"I did not have the usual psychological problems the other guys had. Also I knew quite clearly nothing was going to stop me from studying."

"I did not have much respect for the law left after my own trial."

What about his jailors?

"You can't begin to understand the level of hatred and anger emanating from your captors."

"At the time it intrigued me that the PAC's policy is that there is only one race and that is the human race. I was surprised that the founders of the PAC were prepared to go that far and say even these guys were human."

"They take you, lock you up, get you through some process undefended, get you out and throw you in a bloody dungeon."

"Are they human?"

Continues tomorrow

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ANC figure wrong HRC

CAPE TOWN — The Human Rights Commission (HRC) yesterday said the number of political prisoners given by the ANC was higher than the actual figure. The ANC claimed there were 3 226 in South Africa — a figure it attributed to the HRC. The HRC said it put the number of political prisoners at between 2 500 and 3 000, but only had the names of 1 321.

16/12/91
20/2/91

THERE are 199 political prisoners still being held in the maximum security prison on Robben Island. The prisoners have been waiting for one year for the outcome of ANC and government negotiations. Since February 21 last year when president De Klerk announced the release of political prisoners, only a handful have been released.

These are the names of the men who are still there:

J Nene, M Meyiwa, P Langa, D Madlaba, M Khakhaza, T Nxumalo, B Ngubelani, J Mange, B Tau, MDR Maghuyana, SM Gaba, R Chamusso PT Mashigo, N Manana, NJ Lubisi, DT Moisi, J Shabangu, AB

More than 190 still wait for freedom

South 2112-22121911 253

Isotsobe, K Skweyaya, RB Mpondo, V Diba, MT Makubala, PV Kube, J Mlipo, SW Makhatim, AZ Molotsi, J Molele, TP Ngcobo, SE Mahlobo, SB Mthombeni, FN Mhlanzi, J Ngondela, SF Huna, RN Nzo, DM Tyutyu, KF Morule, DHlongwane, MG Mgeza, SF Mkhonta, JM Ngobesi, HD Dipitse, MD Kekane, ZM Mazantsana, RM Dumisa, HM Dubasi, JT Majá, LH Mkefa, IT Mabaso, CB Bpatsu, F Thbane, MB Gebashe, J Mahlanga, KC Libazi, A Hewukle, ES Nkosi, G Malamba, A Lentswane, VM Dlodlo, SPP Ngwenya, OQ Msoni, SR Ndlanzi, VV Mhlongo, DT Magola, KD Mkwambui, MG Mkwambubui, S Mokoena, GM Mabengeza, JM Ngoma, TT Mzukva, LB Ngunungwana, GS Sizani, TW Zwene, B Mokgosi, S Molhope, S Nshontsho, AA du Preez, ZT Dlamini, MB Qunza, TL Mhaleki, ME Petane, GC Webster, SN Maphumulo, MA Dloomo, J Lentsoane, R Sebopela, PJ Mhisi, CD Zulu, ZMotaung, SM Dloomo, VI Ramlakan, MT Sithole, T Tshika, G Nxumalo, D Mocha, T Nkosi, T Sekonyane, P Khoza, S Siboza, D Nisoserig, B Thlapana, J Sethylpeló, VL Sindane, C Mofokeng, J Kweza, S Baluzulu, S Mehl, LNxiweni, T Nkele, S Goanga, D Nkopodi, A Cassien, V Mathunjawa, T Mazye, EI Ebrahim, S Dladla, A Maseko, PA Jacobs, AA Forbes, W Mnikeli, M Sokopo, M Mngani, T Thozamile, PA Mathonsi, NS Seboge, TJ Phikwane, A Memela, AN Mamba, C Baadjes, A Dramat, NL Pedro, K Nsikole, C Mogashoa, GF Ramahlo, A Phule, JS Seroke, MK Cele, TP Khonogwe, RD Mwandila, NR Skhosana, MPP Mgoohozi, SN Mfoahloli, SM Gahya, MN Dikana, MR Zubese, HZ Dikaza, SS Khola, C Lekhumbi, TA Nogerane, S Mokubela, JES Makhura, CN Naki, SZ Ngome, MI Molo, SZ Liwonde, MN Wabana, P Ngungwana, TB Masiza, SL Matomene, ZH Adam, G Martubungwana, IL Fibi, LT Seleke, TJ Batyi, PI Lithakanyane, A Magagula, MAC Seshlapelo, B Pule, MW Nkaole, A Phami, VT Mstich, E Mokati, WV Mandoga, NI Mazibuko, NT Tumane, PO Ramknekva, A Mponya, OS Madonsela, TS Lengwat, WV Mhlongo, MR Rohan, M Frans, NE Zulu, SP Mchoho, MB Joyi, D Nokhatywa, M Matziddi, SR Ndlovu, AP Mathabathle, JF Maake

HRC wants prison records on 'unrest' political prisoners

THE Department of Justice should make available court and prison records to the Working Group on Political Offences for it to get true figures on "unrest" political prisoners and ensure no one is forgotten in the process of releasing political prisoners. *Su | 21/2 - 27/2/91*

So says the Human Rights Commission (HRC) in a press statement.

"It has been the experience over the years of the state of emergency that the veil of secrecy drawn across political detentions and arrests has had the effect of severely limiting the ability of monitoring groups like the HRC to record

political incarcerations," it said.

The HRC estimates the current number of political prisoners to be between 2 500 and 3 000, of which about 250 are "security" political prisoners convicted of contraventions of the Internal Security Act, treason or sedition. The rest are "unrest" political prisoners convicted of common law offences such as public violence, arson, malicious damage to property or murder. *(253)*

On Wednesday this week, there were 62 prisoners held under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act in South Africa, 52 under the Public Security Act in Transkei and 11 under the National Security Act in Ciskei.

Seven Islanders freed

SEVEN Western Cape political prisoners were released from Robben Island on Thursday.

They are Cecil Esau, Quentin Michels, Sazi Veldtman, Mthetho Douglas Myanya, Nazeem Lowe, Colin Mdevu and Solomon Mokapi.

Esau, Michels, Veldtman and Myanya were sentenced to between eight and 15 years' imprisonment for terrorism in 1987.

Lowe has served two years of a 10-year sentence for terrorism. He was

jailed with eight others, four of whom remain on Robben Island.

Mdevu and Mokapi are from Paarl. The others are from the Cape Peninsula. South 21/2-27/2/91.

On the eve of their release, relatives welcomed their freedom but mourned the fate of those left behind.

Mrs Fawzia Lowe said she had hardly slept since she heard on Monday that Nazeem was to be released.

"I feel as excited as I was the day Nazeem was born," she said.

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"But although I am happy that he is coming out, I realise it must be terrible for his brothers he is leaving behind."

Mrs Lynette Veldtman said she was also depressed when she realised what effect her husband's release would have on other wives waiting for their men to be released.

"I was really down when I telephoned one of my friends whose husband is serving 25 years on Robben Island.

"But at the same time I am so happy I could cry," Veldtman said.

Living it up on the 'Island in Chains'

South 21/2 - 27/2/91. 253

THE "Cape doctor" — the summer south-easter wind — was gusting at a hearty 95km an hour when Cape Town journalists boarded the ferry to Robben Island last Thursday afternoon

We had been invited to a social function there by the liaison section of the Department of Correctional Services (formerly the Prisons Service)

Despite the gale force wind, the trip across Table Bay on the Penguin, the Department's newest ferry, was smooth and uneventful

As the skyline of Cape Town disappeared and the island came into sight, necks craned for the first view of the world-famous prison colony

In the sheltered harbour on the eastern shore of the island, watchtowers and grey stone walls was the first sight which caught our eyes

On board a prisons' bus which drove us to our destination on the island, we passed through a stone arch with the legend "Welcome — Robben Island"

These words probably offer cold comfort for those who see it on the first day of a lifetime's incarceration

Diverse

As we drove to the guest house on the island, we got our first (and only) glimpse of the maximum security prison

A foreboding high, grey wall, however, ensured we would not discover what the prison was like. We passed a fenced-off soccer field that sparked off thoughts of which world-renowned ex-prisoners had either cheered on or participated in weekend matches there

The guest house, our accommodation for the evening, could not have been more diverse from our ill-informed notions of life on Robben Island

The recently-restored governor's mansion, brought back to its former glory at the cost of millions of rands, was put at our disposal for the evening.

Gleaming wooden floorboards, restored antique furniture and panoramic views of Table Mountain would put the most luxurious five-star hotels in South Africa to shame

Our well-appointed suites were certainly large enough to each accommodate a few prisoners comfortably.

A large canopy bed in the main suite was fit for a president — as state president FW de Klerk discovered when the cabinet met on Robben Island last



OPULENCE ON THE ISLAND: The restored governor's mansion on Robben Island used as a guest house

There is another side to Robben Island that few people see — comfortable accommodation, good food and a wealth of wildlife. Unfortunately, this is the life the majority of the island population — the prisoners — have never experienced. For centuries, Robben Island has been the foremost symbol of oppression in South Africa. Its nicknames, "Devil's Island", "Island of Shame" and "Island in Chains", sum up the bitterness felt by former prisoners. **Rehana Rossouw** spent a night on the island last week, but her experience there was very different from the prisoners'

What we were fed certainly wasn't leftovers — two kinds of fish, red meat and dessert

I remembered what an ex-prisoner told me during an interview at the height of the prisoners' hunger strike in March last year "Our priority was always food, we never received enough and it was never decent."

Protection

Much later that evening, with the wind howling outside and the surf battering the rocks, I again wondered about the men behind the walls, whether the stones they had dug out themselves were protection enough

We left the next morning, none wiser of the plight of the prisoners. During our 15-hour stay on Robben Island, we had seen no more than 20 prisoners — from afar

The secrecy on the enigmatic island remains

month

After coffee served by a prisoner, we again boarded the bus for a tour of the island, accompanied by the commanding officer, Colonel Wessel van Niekerk

We learnt that the first person to set foot on Robben Island was one of Bartholomew Dias' captains, Joao del Infante, in 1488

We discovered that the island is only 574ha in area, the circumference only 11km and is 4,7km at its widest point.

We saw the stone quarry where Jan van

Riebeeck had stone carved for the erection of the castle and the Groot Kerk. Today, warders' children use the water-filled quarry as a swimming hole

Another quarry on the north side of the island was dug out by prisoners to build the maximum security jail

More tantalising thoughts of which famous prisoners laboured there!

We learnt that the island was first used as a prison colony in 1670 and during that century also housed lepers and lunatics

On the east shore, thousands of penguins waddled in "protective custody" in their colony, safe from predators and mankind

After the tour, we were taken to the officers' club for the social function

The well-stocked club offers some comfort to warders removed from the buzz of urban life

Our three-course evening meal raised questions of exactly what the men on the other side of the wall had for supper that evening

To prison in winter, shorts and barefoot

253
Sobukwe
2/12/91

AT 15, Dikgang Moseneke was transferred from Pretoria Central to Robben Island and became the youngest prisoner there.

This was in 1964.

"My first five years on Robben Island were hard.

"I arrived there in winter in shorts and barefeet.

"You existed because you had a mind which functioned."

Studying brought a lot of fun. He passed standard 8 in 1964 with a first class certificate.

"There was ample time to read.

"In prison evening starts early at 4.30 pm.

"I remember doing Latin while pushing a wheelbarrow."

In 1963 there were only PAC members on the Island.

The African National Congress members came to Robben Island a year later.

Studying

"Almost everybody came out of there better people.

"Nelson (Mandela) was studying, everyone else was studying.

"You had time to think through problems."

On his release in 1973 he was banned for five-years and placed under a six to six house arrest.

During this time he completed a LLB degree.

When the banning order expired, Moseneke served his articles at a city law firm, Dyason.

"They were courageous I must say.

"Not only was I black and the first black articulated clerk in Pretoria but I had a PAC background."

His admission to the bar was problematic.

The Law Society objected to his acceptance arguing he had a conviction but the judges ruled in

FOCUS



It's a long, hard journey from Robben Island to the Pretoria Bar. ESTHER WAUGH in this second part of her story, charts the meteoric rise of PAC's deputy president Dikgang Moseneke from his days as a 15-year-old prisoner on the Island.

his favour.

"The precedent used was a very interesting one - in making a decision they relied on a case, The Law Society of the Transvaal versus N Mandela.

Interesting

"It is an interesting parallel between Nelson and I in many respects - we are both lawyers, both black, both from Robben Island and we met each other there.

Mandela was an African lawyer in adverse circumstances with a lot of animosity around him.

"We are not a welcome species.

"That we are alive and well

today I think is the result of a lot of pushing.

"We need to produce even more lawyers.

"The connection is inevitable," he says.

He cites people like Godfrey Pitje, Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela who were both lawyers and leaders. Robert Sobukwe, himself afterwards became a lawyer and practised in Kimberley.

How come police did not arrest him for being a PAC member after his release in 1973 until the organisation's unbanning on February 2, 1990?

"Because they had to prove that I was a member, one and that I advanced the cause of that organisation, which I was doing."

Married

Today Moseneke is advocate at the Pretoria Bar.

What happened to his life since his release in 1973?

"I got married and had those guys," he says pointing to a picture of his family.

"They have grown fast - 10 and 12 years old - attending school.

"I have a wife who is still alive and well.

"I live in Atteridgeville.

"I did lots to build a legal career and kept up with the PAC.

"I was in close touch with guys in jail, those in exiles, facilitated a lot of communication between the two.

"I gave a lot of support to families of guys studying on Robben Island."

About his career in the Pan Africanist Congress he says:

"It was a fairly heavy price to pay at a certain point which I managed to translate into an advantage.

"We turned the tables against our captors."

He was surprised by his ap-

pointment to the executive committee of the PAC.

"I have been primarily a functionary.

"I have been the boy who did the nuts and bolts.

"I was the guy who would ensure that it all goes well, that the guys' needs were taken care of."

Moseneke agrees he was very much a backroom man until the PAC's conference in December.

"A new leadership had to come into place and it did not only happen to me.

"We introduced a lot of strong, young leaders whose faces you are going to be seeing quite a lot.

"We have introduced a lot of professionals and technocrats to come in and help pull the PAC together.

"It is the first time the PAC has had to collect leadership from inside the country in 31 years."

He thinks his responsibility of being the internal deputy leader difficult and challenging.

Critical

"It is and it comes at the most critical time of our history.

"Responsibilities attached to the post are fairly obvious.

"I see myself as a technocrat; as a guy with certain limited skills in the legal field.

"In the last 14 years I have tried to play my part in that regard.

"I have fought all the battles that had to be fought.

"Now I am called upon full blast to take a political role.

"It is most daunting, most challenging."

For the next two years, he plans to "ensure visible growth of the PAC, to establish very strong party structures and try to facilitate the establishment of a Patriotic Front".

7 political prisoners to be freed

253
~~253~~

21/2/91

SEVEN political prisoners are expected to be released from Robben Island this Thursday, a lawyer acting on their behalf said on Monday night.

Four of them - including Cecil Esau, co-accused in the trial of Liso "Bright" Ngqungwana, and Nazeem Louw, co-accused in the Ashley Forbes trial - are from Cape Town

The ANC has given the government an April 30 deadline for the release of all political prisoners

Two others expected to be released were also co-accused in the Ngqungwana trial after which 12 were jailed in August 1987 on terrorism charges ranging from possessing explosives to

bringing weapons into the country.

Esau was jailed for 12 years after admitting that he had selected places to hide arms for the ANC; Quanton Michaels for 12 years; Sazi Veldtman for 15 years; and Mithetho Douglas Myanya for eight years

Grenade

Louw was sentenced on December 14 1988 to 10 years' imprisonment on terrorism charges for his part in a hand grenade attack on the Manenberg police station. He was one of 14 accused in the Ashley Forbes trial.

The two other men expected to be released are Colin Mdebu and Solomon Mókape - *Sapa*

ANC Women's League attacks media reporting

THE ANC Women's League PWV executive yesterday attacked what it saw as the "specious" reporting of the Winnie Mandela trial, and questioned whether the country's system of justice could provide her with a fair trial.

Mandela is chairman of the league's PWV executive. She did not attend the news conference, at which a statement was released accusing the media of "distorted thinking" which had given rise to a "baseless set of assumptions".

The statement, read by deputy chairman Joan Fubbs, said the media had inferred from distorted assumptions that the ANC was not committed to the establishment of justice. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Fubbs said Mandela herself was extremely distressed by the abduction of witnesses and the alleged kidnappings.

When a reporter suggested the statement might usefully have included an appeal to key witnesses to come forward and

TIM COHEN

testify, and an assurance that they would not be harmed, he was accused of being "arrogant".

"Perhaps because you are a man you feel it is okay for you to tell us what to do," said executive member Jessie Duarte.

She said the executive would not be intimidated.

Regional executive publicity officer Feroza Adams said the question was based on an assumption that the ANC was intimidating witnesses who had not come forward to testify, in the same way that there was an assumption that a witness had been kidnapped.

A Justice Department spokesman said there were no valid grounds for the Women's League statements on the system of justice.

"It is moreover policy not to become embroiled with biased and unscientific utterances," the spokesman said.

CP paper says

Political

CAPE TOWN — The CP yesterday said an agent in SA's intelligence service. The CP's official mouthpiece said the agent was the source of its disclosure of Winnie Mandela's trial, kidnapped by the state.

It also said that the same document which brought to light the murder right-wing political party Die Patriot said President de Klerk had confirmed the authenticity of the document.

This had failed, the newspaper said, demonstrated by the fact that the document had been shown again. *Blom 22/2*

Seven political prisoners freed

LESLEY LAMBERT

CAPE TOWN — Seven political prisoners were released from Robben Island yesterday — the first group to be freed since government and the ANC's most recent accord on violence and political indemnity.

The move showed a trend in which those jailed for 10 to 15 years were freed after three or four years. *(153)*

Those released had all been charged with terrorism or assisting terrorists. They were: Cecil Esau, a University of the Western Cape law student imprisoned for a term of 12 years until 1999; Fazi Veldman, imprisoned for 15 years until 2002, Quentin Michaels, a Mannenberg teacher jailed for 12 years; Douglas Myanya, a Langa social worker imprisoned for eight years until 1995, Nazeem Lowe, imprisoned for 10 years; Colin Nedevu, jailed for 12 years, and Solomon Mokape, imprisoned for 11 years until 1998.

Whites-only CMU ruled 'unfair'

Business Day Reporter

THE Labour Appeal Court ruled yesterday that the whites-only Chamber of Mining Unions (CMU) was committing an unfair labour practice by refusing to let blacks, coloureds and Indians join the Mine Employees Pension Fund (MEPF).

The Chamber of Mines hailed the decision as an important victory in its efforts to eliminate discrimination in the mining industry.

The court upheld an Industrial Court decision granted in favour of the chamber in September 1989.

The court said that it agreed with the Industrial Court's finding that the CMU was using the rules of the MEPF to perpetuate racial discrimination. This was because the CMU was refusing to agree to amend the rules of the MEPF to allow blacks, coloureds and Asians in skilled jobs to become members of the MEPF on the same basis as whites.

The Labour Appeal Court's decision is the culmination of a protracted struggle which started in the early 1980s to persuade the CMU to agree to allow blacks, coloureds and Asians in skilled jobs to become members of the MEPF. The MEPF was established for skilled employees in 1949 when no non-whites were employed in these job categories, the chamber said in a statement yesterday.

However, the scrapping of job reservation, which began in 1981, enabled non-whites to fill some of these skilled positions but the MEPF continued to allow only "Europeans" as members. With the abolition of the "scheduled person" concept from the Mines and Works Act and Regulations in 1988, there were no longer any bars in the mining industry against the employment of non-whites in any jobs.

ON RESULTS

Seven political prisoners freed

LESLEY LAMBERT

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Seven political prisoners freed (253)

HUNDREDS of friends and family members cheered yesterday as seven newly freed prisoners arrived in the Cape Town harbour *Sowetan 22/2/91*

Scores of journalists and supporters mobbed the men after they stepped off the boat from Robben Island.

"It's a tremendous welcome," said Mr Quentin Michaels, a former schoolteacher who was sentenced to 12 years for terrorism in 1987 - *Sapa-AP*.

Govt 'using prisoner release to boost image'

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Seven former Robben Island prisoners have accused the Government of using the release of political prisoners to boost its own image and credibility.

In a joint statement, read shortly after their release yesterday, the Umkhonto we Sizwe members said the Government, despite its agreement with the ANC, was reluctant to release political prisoners immediately and unconditionally.

They said: "It has conveniently selected a few of our comrades for release in order to further its own agenda. It still continues to wage a psychological war against political prisoners, their relatives and the oppressed people of South Africa."

Released yesterday were Cecil Esau, Quentin Michaels, Sazi Veldtman, Douglas Myamya, Nazeem Lowe, Colin Ndevu and Solomon Mokape.

They arrived in the harbour on board the ferry, Penguin, at 4 pm and received a tumultuous welcome from relatives and supporters.

Banners and ANC flags were held aloft as the vessel sailed into the harbour.

Mr Esau, Mr Michaels and Mr Veldtman were convicted of terrorism in the Cape Town Supreme Court on August 6 1987 by Mr Justice Nel. Mr Myamya was convicted of harbouring or assisting terrorists.

Mr Esau, a former law student, and Mr Michaels, a high school teacher, were each jailed for 12 years and Post Office clerk Mr Veldtman for 15 years.

Mr Myamya, a social worker, was jailed for eight years.

Mr Lowe, an accused in the Ashley Forbes trial in the Cape Town Supreme Court, was convicted of terrorism and sentenced to 10 years in 1988. A further 10 years was suspended for five years.



PIET RUDOLPH

Eight more rightists fast for 'Piet Skiet'

EIGHT more detained right-wingers yesterday launched hunger strikes in three Transvaal prisons in support of Piet Rudolph, leader of the Orde Boerevolk.

Mr Rudolph, who was detained in September last year under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act, entered the 11th day of his fast at Pretoria's Central Prison yesterday. He has taken neither food nor water.

The rightwingers' passive resistance is in protest against the Government's refusal to negotiate the territorial independence demanded by Boer Republican and Afrikaner separatist groups.

ADA STUIJ

Stu 23/1/91

Leonard Veenendaal, "commandant" of the Orde Boerevolk, who is imprisoned with Mr Rudolph at Pretoria Central, told reporters at the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court yesterday that Mr Rudolph's urine was found to contain blood and excessive protein, that he was depressed and too weak to leave his prison cell.

"The leader of the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging, Eugene TerreBlanche, was scheduled to visit Mr Rudolph in prison yesterday with his attorney Jackie

Nel

The eight detained rightwingers are protesting against Mr Rudolph's continued imprisonment. Mr Vermaak said everyone believed Mr Rudolph should have been admitted to hospital a week ago.

The eight hunger strikers are Fame Goossen, Cornelius Lottering, Daryl Stopforth, Arthur Archer, Leonard Veenendaal, Craig Barker, Henk Bredenhann and Horst Klenz, who was recently arrested.

Reacting to OB complaints, the Department of Correctional Services said yesterday medical treatment was continually available to prisoners on hun-

ger strike. It added that full records were kept of prisoners' physical condition and that instructions issued by the district surgeon were carried out meticulously.

Meanwhile, the extradition hearing for Mr Veenendaal, Mr Stopforth and Mr Klenz requested by Namibia and scheduled at the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court on Friday was postponed to April 1 for the first two men and May 23 for Mr Klenz.

The three men were allegedly involved in a military-style attack on an Outjo Untag base before Namibian independence — Sapa

MK men freed from island

CP Correspondent

253

TEN Umkhonto weSizwe soldiers were freed from Robben Island this week.

Former University of the Western Cape law student Cecil Esau, high school teacher Quentin Michels, post office worker Suzi Veldtman, social worker Douglas Myamya, Nazeem Lowe, Colin Ndevu and Solomon Mokape were freed on Thursday.

Thadixolo Nakele, Sikhiwa Mehlo and Lindile Mxiweni, all serving six-year sentences for ter-

rorism, were released on Friday.

The seven were given a rapturous welcome by friends and relatives as they stepped off the ferry which brought them to the mainland.

Esau, Michels and Veldtman were convicted of terrorism in 1987. Esau and Michels were each jailed for 12 years and Veldtman for 15 years.

Myamya was convicted of harbouring or assisting terrorists and jailed for eight years.

Lowe was convicted of terrorism

in 1988 and imprisoned for 10 years on December 15, 1988. A further 10 years was suspended for five years.

Nakele's mother, Tazie Nakele, travelled from Port Elizabeth to be with her son and his two friends, whom she regards as her "own sons". She hugged them all.

She did not believe they would be freed, she said.

"I thought it was one of the government's tricks. I'm so happy they are back. I visited each of them on Robben Island."

Cape's own 'Alcatraz' becoming a tourist must

ROBBEN Island — in its time a leper colony, a naval base, a security prison and, more recently, venue for a meeting of the SA Cabinet — received 33 000 visitors last year

With Table Mountain and Cape Point, the island is now a must on the tourist's Cape itinerary, says Alta van Wyk in the March issue of RSA Policy Review.

Robben Island has aroused worldwide interest as a result of its sinister and enigmatic image as the Alcatraz of SA, Van Wyk says

But it has its brighter aspects too.

She says a decision taken a decade ago to close the two prisons on the island was reversed in 1986 when it was found that replacing them would cost R80m.

A subsequent decision was taken to make the island more accessible to the public, she says, although government is holding out against fullscale

commercial exploitation of what is, in effect, a unique 574 ha piece of the Karoo stranded in Table Bay

Just one of Robben Island's fascinating historical features is the Herbert Baker-designed Church of the Good Shepherd. Not only is it a men's only church, it also has no pews — because the lepers would not have been able to sit on them.

A comprehensive conservation programme is being launched by the Department of Correctional Services — the old Prisons Department — and interest groups

Nearly 4 000 jackass penguins have chosen the island as their home, making it the world's sixth largest penguin colony. It also boasts the biggest seagull breeding colony in the southern hemisphere

PATRICK BULGER

Express sales in SA zoom

B/Dom 26/2/91
MARCIA KLEIN

SALES of the International Express, SA's newest newspaper, have soared to about 40 000 a week.

The 64-page tabloid, an international edition aimed mainly at British expatriates — is the first foreign paper to be printed in SA.

The newspaper, which costs R3,75, is a digest of news from the London Daily Express and Sunday Express newspapers and is for sale in SA every Thursday.

Local manager George Meyer said yesterday that a subscription and home delivery service was being made available in certain metropolitan areas due the publication's success in SA.

Meyer said that initial estimates for sales of the publication — which was launched late last month — were about 20 000 a week, but sales of over 27 500 in the first week jumped to 37 200 in the second week.

While no official figures were available for week three, Meyer was confident these would be around 40 000.

The fourth week's issue of the tabloid included the first adverts, although "the International Express is not actively seeking advertising", Meyer said.

Piet Rudolph health row

THE condition of Orde Boerevolk leader and hunger-striker Piet Rudolph was yesterday described by the Correctional Services Department as "satisfactory under the circumstances" *B/Dom 26/2/91*

Rudolph has refused food and liquids for 21 days.

However, Rudolph's lawyer Jack Nel said the physical condition of a 55-year-old man who had refused foods and liquids for 21 days "must be more serious than satisfactory".

Rudolph's family have been clamouring for his transfer to hospital.

The Department said eight right-wingers had begun hunger strikes in prison — Sapa.

Handwritten
26/2/91

(1) Whether there has been any meeting between the Government and representatives of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, if so, (a) when did the meeting take place, (b) by whom was it attended and (c) what was the (1) purpose and (ii) outcome of the meeting,
(2) whether any further meetings are due to take place, if so, what are the relevant details?
B242E

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

(1) Yes
(a) The meeting took place in Cape Town on 12 February 1991

(b) It was attended by a delegation of four UNHCR officials under the leadership of Mr N Bwakira, Director of the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Africa and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, National Health and Population Development and Home Affairs, the Deputy Minister of Justice and senior South African officials

(c) (i) The purpose of the meeting was to explore with the delegation of the UNHCR the basis on which that organisation might assist in facilitating the return of exiles to South Africa should it be decided to extend an invitation to it to play a role
(ii) The meeting was purely exploratory

Pretoria Minute: work completed

*21 Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Correctional Services (J53)

(1) Whether it is anticipated that the work in connection with the release of prisoners and the granting of amnesty referred to in the Pretoria Minute will be completed by 30 April 1991,
(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B243E

THE MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

(1) and (2) 26/2/91
The target date as set is attainable provided that the applicants for release and indemnity give their full co-operation

Fuel price criteria

*22 Adv C H PIENNAAR asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs and Public Enterprises †

(a) What criteria are applied in fixing the price of fuel on a differentiated basis in the various fuel zones and (b) how many fuel zones are there in the Republic at present?
B252E

THE MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

(a) Fuel prices differ only in respect of transport costs. The different price zones reflect the costs of transport to a particular area and for this purpose magisterial districts are used. All magisterial districts with the same transport cost element are combined in a price zone. The transport cost also represents the most economic mode of transport which can be used in an area, for example pipeline, rail or road, or a combination of these modes as applicable. The Pretoria-Vereeniging-Withwaterstrand is price zone 14C and is based on pipeline tariffs. The increased transport cost that became effective on 1 January 1991 has thus far not been passed on to consumers and is still separately financed by the Equalisation Fund
(b) 60

*23 Dr F Hartzenberg—Justice † [Withdrawn]

White schools: pupil/teacher ratio

*24 Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of National Education †

(1) Whether his Department is considering adjusting the pupil/teacher ratio in White schools, if so, what ratio is envisaged by his Department in this regard,
(2) whether it is foreseen that some White teachers are going to lose their posts in

White schools as a result of this adjustment, if so, what steps are contemplated in respect of such teachers?
B258E

THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION

(1) Strictly speaking, the issue of the pupil/teacher ratio in schools is not a line function of the Department of National Education and it does not fall within the Department's jurisdiction to determine the day-to-day ratio

The Department is, however, closely concerned with the determination of overall general policy and planning and will probably, as a result of reports related to the Education Renewal Strategy, attend to this matter, and to the implications, if any, that it may have for teaching staff, in consultation with relevant interested parties in the near future

It would not be appropriate to anticipate those representations and consultations at this stage

(2) Lapses

Acacia Park: domestic servants

*25 Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Public Works and Land Affairs †

Whether his Department places any restriction on domestic servants of colour living in flats and/or houses in Acacia Park, if so, why, if not, why not?
B261E

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND LAND AFFAIRS

Yes, but in the rules and conditions of occupation, drawn up in consultation with the Acacia Park Control Board, no reference is made to race or colour. The applicable rule only states that *servants* may not be allowed to stay overnight in houses, flats or store-rooms

In Acacia Park there are various types of dwellings ranging from three-bedroom houses to single flats. To ensure that dwellings are allocated in a fair and just manner, a points system is used. The number of people in the particular household who have to be accommodated is an important element of the points system. Tenants with larger families who have

to be in Cape Town for the duration of the Session of Parliament receive preference in the allocation of the larger homes. There are not enough two- or three-bedroom dwellings available to provide accommodation for servants of tenants as well. Store-rooms at dwellings are also not considered to be suitable accommodation for continuous human occupation. For these reasons specific provision were made for servants' quarters in Acacia Park

P160-1 road (N4)

*26 Dr W J BOTHA asked the Minister of Transport †

(1) Whether the detail planning of the two uncompleted sections of the P160-1 road (the N4) has been completed,
(2) when is it expected that the construction work on these two sections will be (a) commenced and (b) completed?
B272E

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT

(1) Yes
(2) (a) and (b) Due to the fact that restricted funds have to be used for other priorities the requested information is not determinable at this stage
P160-2 road

*27 Dr W J BOTHA asked the Minister of Transport †

Whether the construction work on the P160-2 road has been discontinued, if so, (a) when, (b) why, (c) when is it expected that the construction work will be (i) resumed and (ii) completed and (d) what amount had been spent on compacting the shoulders of and other construction work on this road when the construction work on it was discontinued?
B273E

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT

Yes
(a) During May 1986,
(b) Due to a lack of funds,
(c) (i) and (ii) The requested information is not determinable at this stage, and
(d) R15,65 million

Lawyers want 'Skiet' to be put in hospital

Sarlem 27/2/91
LAWYERS for detained Orde Boerevolk leader Mr Piet "Skiet" Rudolph have intensified their campaign to have their client transferred to hospital and be given political indemnity.

Rudolph has refused to take any liquids or food for the past 22 days

Seven other detained rightwingers have also gone on hunger strike this week to back up their demands for their own rights.

Rudolph was arrested on September 17 last year on suspicion of right wing terrorism and has twice been refused bail.

His trial is expected to take place in August in the Rand Supreme Court.

Lawyer Mr Jackie Nel has kept Rudolph's hunger strike in the public eye by issuing repeated pleas for his transfer to hospital

Attorney Mr Wim Cornelius this week wrote to the Commissioner of Correctional Services and the Minister of Justice with detailed complaints about Rudolph's incarceration in Pretoria Central Prison.

Protest meeting

In a highly unusual show of right wing solidarity a "flash protest meeting" is planned for Pretoria's Church Square in support of the hunger strikers.

Local supporters of the Conservative Party, Boerestaat Party, Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging, Herstigte Nasionale Party, Orde Boerevolk and other right wing groups are expected to show up to hear AWB leader Mr Eugene Terre'Blanche.

Professor Carel Boshoff, leader of the Afrikaner Volkswag, is said to have visited Rudolph in prison on Monday night. - Sapa

Cadres hopeful to be ²⁵³ *Saretan* freed ^{28/2/91} soon

THE 165 members of *Umkhonto we Sizwe* still on Robben Island are optimistic they will be released by April 30, according to senior MK cadre Mr Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim

Ebrahim was freed on Tuesday after the Appeal Court in Bloemfontein dismissed his 20-year sentence for treason.

Abducted

He was released immediately after the Appeal Court found that the Transvaal Supreme Court should not have tried him because he was abducted from Swaziland and brought to South Africa in "vehicles of the State"

The court said this was violation of international law

News that his appeal had succeeded was broken to him at 4pm on Tuesday. Most of his MK colleagues were in their cells at the time. He did not have time to say goodbye to all of them

Excited

"I could say goodbye only to my comrades in the maximum security section where I was held

"I was excited that the appeal had gone in my favour but was sorry to leave my comrades.

"There's a lot of optimism on Robben Island that all of them will be freed by April 30." - *Sapa.*



CONSULTANTS: The PAC's Patricia de Lille, Benny Alexander and Barney Desai after their visit to Robben Island this week

PIC YUNUS MOHAMED

No compromise on prisoners, says PAC

South 28/2-6/3/91
A TOTAL of 20 Pan Africanist Congress prisoners on Robben Island will continue to refuse to negotiate with the government for their release, according to PAC secretary general Mr Benny Alexander.

Alexander was speaking soon after a PAC delegation had held discussions with PAC prisoners on Robben Island on Wednesday.

The PAC delegation included information and publicity secretary Mr Barney Desai, and foreign affairs secretary Ms

Patricia de Lille

The PAC prisoners include Mr Enoch Mabatha Zulu, 56, an NEC member and commander in the PAC's armed wing, the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA)

Alexander said the prisoners refused to compromise on their position as they were being held by an "illegitimate regime"

"The government must release all prisoners unilaterally as a precondition to negotiations. This is not a trade-off matter at all," he said

253

Prisoner is seriously injured in jail attack

By MONK NKOMO

P. R. I. S. O. N. E. R
after being attacked by gangsters in a cell at the Pretoria Central prison last week, it was alleged yesterday.

presently coughing blood after the attack last Wednesday night, said his mother, Mrs. Thenjiwe Mafadi.

the previous day. He was jailed for four years in 1987 for theft.
"My son also told me that the cells are no longer locked and there was no security at night. He sustained serious injuries and we fear that the gang might come back and kill him," Mrs. Mafadi said.

Department of Correctional Services yesterday confirmed that Mafadi was "slightly injured in an incident allegedly involving a fellow prisoner and not a group of gangsters on February 20 1991."

Mafadi was coughing blood and the cells were no longer locked and that there was no security at night.
"The Department of Correctional Services regards every complaint of any alleged assault, no matter how petty, in a serious light and prisoners are not allowed to intimidate one another,"

said the spokesman. He added that it was Mafadi's prerogative to lay criminal charges against his assailants. If the complaint is substantiated, suitable action will be taken in terms of prison regulations.
Mrs Mafadi yesterday accused the authorities of trying to "cover up" her son's injuries.
"He is in bad shape. I saw him. And he told me he was attacked by gangsters who gained entry into his cell which was not locked."
She added that her son complained that he did not get proper medical treatment - an allegation denied by the Department of Correctional Services.

A spokesman for the

253
Daseker
11/3/91

01029 1/3/71

Right-wing hunger strikers in hospital

THREE of the detained right-wing Orde Boerestaat (OB) members on hunger strike were admitted to the Johannesburg Hospital on Wednesday evening, sources told Sapa yesterday

Darryl Stopforth, Arthur Archer and Craig Barker were transferred from Diepkloof Prison in Johannesburg. All three have been awaiting trial in detention for alleged terrorism since their arrests in July last year

An SAP spokesman in Pretoria last night confirmed to Business Day the men

had been transferred

The right-wingers embarked on their second hunger strike last Saturday to highlight their political demands for an independent Boer republic

Family members and friends of the three expressed relief about the transfer, as they believed that the Johannesburg Hospital would be able to monitor the men's health more closely

OB leader Piet Rudolph, 55, has been on hunger strike since January 9 — Sapa

State's power checked by Ebrahim judgment

By CARMEL RICKARD Durban
WHEN the Appellate Division ordered the release of African National Congress official Ebrahim Ismael Ebrahim from Robben Island this week human rights took a major step forward

In its landmark judgment freeing Ebrahim the AD reined in the executive, insisted the state was accountable for the actions of its subordinates and made it clear no court would try anyone abducted by the state from outside the country. The decision means any Civil Co-operation Bureau-type cross-border action to kidnap people for trial will be pointless.

It could have a number of side effects including improved relations with neighbouring states which have long complained of cross-border kidnapping raids. This was the first time a South African court had found the state violated international borders in this way and it is understood Swaziland could now call Pretoria to account for the 1986 raid

Lawyers expect further legal action in the wake of the judgment, including civil action by Ebrahim and challenges to conviction and sentence by others who allege they were abducted.

In this judgment, Mr Justice MT Steyn said the state came to the trial with "unclean hands" and indicated the courts would not be prepared to share this taint by allowing an accused, kidnapped by the state from across the borders, to be tried

The court found the state had breached international law and it ignored the correct procedures to have



Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim arrives at Cape Town harbour after his release from Robben Island

Photo: SALLY SHORKEND

someone returned by another country. The judge ruled when decision-making was delegated to lower levels in the administration, the state was still "involved and responsible for the consequences".

He said the individual must be protected against unlawful detention and abduction. Limits on the legal authority of the state must not be exceeded, and the sovereignty of other states had to be respected.

Many factors made this landmark judgment possible including the AD's support for individual rights, the persuasive argument of the legal team —

and Ebrahim's own quick wits. If he had not taken such detailed mental notes of all that happened to him during his abduction from Swaziland and removal to Pretoria, he would still be in jail, serving 20 years for treason

The behaviour of his kidnappers, their conversations and boasts to him were stored up by Ebrahim. These details were essentially unanswered by the state and were held by the court to provide adequate circumstantial evidence that "agents of the state" were indeed responsible for his abduction

● Ismail Mahomed SC, assisted by Paul Kennedy and instructed by Priscilla Jana appeared for Ebrahim.

Right-wing hunger strikers in hospital

253

Star 11/3/91
By Monica Nicolson

Three rightwingers on a hunger strike in the Diepkloof Prison were admitted to the Johannesburg hospital on Wednesday.

Arthur Archer, Craig Barker and Daryl Stopforth, along with six other rightwingers, went on the hunger strike last week to protest against prison conditions and to draw attention to their political cause.

The lawyer for the men, Wim Cornelius, said Mr Archer had a lung infection and Mr Barker had a heart problem.

Piet 'Skiet' Rudolph (55), leader of the Orde Boerevolk, yesterday went into his 25th day of fasting.

The other hunger strikers are Fanie Goosen, Cornelius Lottering, Leonard Veenendaal, Henk Bredenhann and Horst Klenz.

The Department of Correctional Services refused to comment on the condition of the hunger strikers.

Mr Veenendaal, Mr Barker and Mr Archer have been charged with terrorism for allegedly causing five explosions in Johannesburg last year.

A hearing on Mr Veenendaal and Mr Stopforth's extradition to Namibia will resume in the Johannesburg Magistrates today.

The men were allegedly involved in an attack on an Outjo Untag base in Namibia.

'Death of Rudolph will spark violence'

Star 2/3/91

~~Star 2/3/91~~ (253)
PAT DEVEREAUX and ADA STUIJT

RIGHT-WING hunger striker Piet "Skiet" Rudolph was "a martyr for the Afrikaner cause" and his death in jail could have violent repercussions, warned a number of right-wing political groups last night.

Now in his 25th day of a hunger strike at Pretoria Central Prison, the 55-year-old Orde Boerevolk leader is "frail and chalky white. He is dizzy and there have been dangerous signs of blood and protein in his urine", said Mr Rudolph's lawyer, Wim Cornelius, last night.

See PAGE 6

"If he dies in jail there will be repercussions. Thousands of CP supporters will make a martyr of him," said Conservative Party spokesman on justice Chris de Jager yesterday.

He said that he had asked the Government to prosecute or release Mr Rudolph on a number of occasions.

Mr de Jager said that right-wing groupings such as the CP, the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging, the Herstigte Nasionale Party would join forces.

Right-wing groupings have warned that they will avenge Mr Rudolph's death. There has also been a call for Afrikaners to show their solidarity and sympathy with the hunger strikers by join-

ing in a countrywide one-day hunger strike next Friday.

An AWB spokesman said last night: "Mr Eugene TerreBlanche has already said all hell will break loose if the Government does not meet the hunger strikers' demands. It will be worse if one of them dies."

Jaap Marais, leader of the HNP, said. "We are perturbed that the Government is discriminating against these rightwingers on hunger strikes while they were very lenient with hunger strikers sympathetic to the ANC."

Mr Cornelius said he had visited five other right-wing hunger strikers, Darryl Stopforth, Arthur Archer, Craig Barker, Corrie Lottering and Fanie Goosen, in the Johannesburg Hospital yesterday.

"Mr Archer's weight is down to 50 kg, Mr Stopforth and Mr Archer have lung conditions and Mr Barker has a heart conditions. These problems could be exacerbated if the hunger strike continues," said Mr Cornelius.

He added that another OB member, Leonard Veenendaal, had apparently also been admitted to hospital.

But confusion has arisen about Mr Veenendaal's exact

TO PAGE 2.

Rudolph

Star 2/3/91

FROM PAGE 1.

whereabouts. His lawyer said yesterday he believed his client had already been transferred to Johannesburg Hospital, but this was denied by Major W Greyling of the Department of Correctional Services.

Yesterday Mr Veenendaal, Mr Stopforth and Mr Horst Klentz, were physically unable to make a scheduled court appearance at the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court. Their case was postponed to April 2.

An Orde Boerevolk spokesman, Coen Vermaak, said Mr Rudolph was already instructing his family to make burial arrangements and had said farewell to all his friends.

The strike was launched to protest against the State President's refusal to negotiate with right-wing organisations for the establishment of an independently ruled territory for Afrikaners.

since the middle of last ...
Peter Wronslley's re- that another

Panel to decide on 170 death row prisoners

8 for 2/3/91
PAT DEVEREAUX
253



HEAVY BURDEN: Mr. Justice G. Viljoen heads the death-row panel. Picture courtesy of De Jure University of Pretoria.

THE fate of at least 170 South African death-row prisoners, including 48 political prisoners, now lies in the hands of a review panel of eight top legal men.

The panel of five judges and three academics was formed in terms of the Criminal Law Amendment Act reform measures, which came into effect in July last year.

It is headed by Mr Justice G. Viljoen (73), an acting judge of Appeal. Other judges on the panel include Justice D D V Kanne-meyer, Justice T H van Reenen, judge-president of the Transvaal Provincial Division of the Supreme Court, Justice L le Grange from the Transvaal Bench, Justice J W Edeling from the Orange Free State Bench.

Academics are Professor A J Middleton, Professor in Criminal Law and Procedure at the University of South Africa, Professor C R M Dlamini, Professor in Criminal Law and Procedure at the University of Zululand, and Professor T Verschoor, head of the Department of Criminal Law at the

University of the Orange Free State.

These legal experts will this week begin automatically reviewing death sentences imposed by the courts before July 27 last year, when new legislation concerning the death penalty was passed.

The function of the review panel will be to determine whether the prisoners — who have already been condemned — would probably have been condemned in terms of the new laws.

According to Lawyers for Human Rights 48 political prisoners cases have been included in the panel review.

The panel is expected to complete its task by the end of the month — in time for the ANC/Government negotiated deadline on political prisoners.

According to the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, there are currently 342 peo-

ple on death row. Of these, 298 were sentenced to death prior to the new law coming into force on July 27. Eight of those sentenced prior to the new legislation have since received clemency from the State President. The remainder were sentenced in terms of new legislation.

Meanwhile, Lawyers for Human Rights claim that so far only about 170 of the 290 death row prisoners will have their cases reviewed by the panel as at least 120 prisoners have been caught up in a legislative muddle.

One was Paul Bezuidenhout (22), who was this week notified that he is to be hanged on Tuesday (March 5). He was sentenced prior to July 27.

Bezuidenhout, convicted on two counts of murder, will not have the opportunity to go before the panel. His appeal in September last year failed and his request for clemency from the State President was dismissed.

Gaining strength through starvation

HUNGER strikes by detained activists on both ends of the political spectrum have drawn attention to the last desperate weapon prisoners can wield — the bizarre suicide bid

This unorthodox method of applying pressure on the authorities was in the news again this week as the condition of hunger striker and leading Orde Boerewolk (OB) member, Piet "Skiet" Rudoiph, deteriorated. He stopped taking food at Pretoria Central Prison to protest against his treatment by the Government.

Several weeks ago detainees of the Alexandra Civic Organisation and other jailed members of the OB abandoned their fasts. Nine jailed right-wingers have started a hunger strike in support of Mr Rudoiph.

Although hunger strikes are quite common in South Africa, most detainees end their starvation before serious damage is done. There are no known cases of people starving themselves to death in South Africa.

Survive

The longest known hunger strike was in 1989, when two UDF men fasted for 35 days. Leonard Veenendaal, one of the Orde Boerewolk detainees who recently ended a hunger strike, did not eat for 28 days.

Although people survive for varying lengths of time, depending on health, circumstances and care, damage can become permanent after 35 days.

Professor John Kalk of Wits Medical School, who worked with the 1989 detainees and is regarded as a medical expert on hunger strikes, said most hunger strikers stopped feeling hungry after a few days.

"On average the hunger strikers lost about 400 g per day. After one week to 10 days, they became weak and lethargic."

After two to three weeks, they lost their thirst drive and became dehydrated. If hunger strikers refused water, they could die within 10 days, Professor Kalk said.

Last resort for jailed activists

SA 2/3/91
SUSAN SMUTS

set in, which could affect the brain, said Professor Kalk. The rate of deterioration depended on circumstances of imprisonment and health, he said. The 1989 hunger strikers were section 29 detainees who had been in prison between four and 32 months. This may have affected the way they coped with the hunger strike.

As their physical state deteriorated, the men became depressed. The depression was a contradictory phenomenon, said Professor Kalk. "If you are depressed, you don't have the gumption to do anything that requires willpower. Yet mentally, the hunger strike helped them to take control. The leadership had exhausted legal channels. Going on a hunger strike was a way of taking control. The authorities had to take them seriously, and it was a means of empowerment."

Bobby Sands, the first Irish hunger striker to die, also felt this empowerment. These were the last words he wrote before he died: "I was a skeleton compared to what I used to be but it didn't matter. Nothing really mattered except remaining unbroken. I rolled over once again, the cold biting at me I said to myself: 'Our day will come.'"

Come

In the weeks leading up to the end of their fast, the UDF detainees who refused food for 35 days became dehydrated and developed kidney problems. They accepted intravenous therapy, but stopped it every two or three days, when they had recovered, Professor Kalk said.

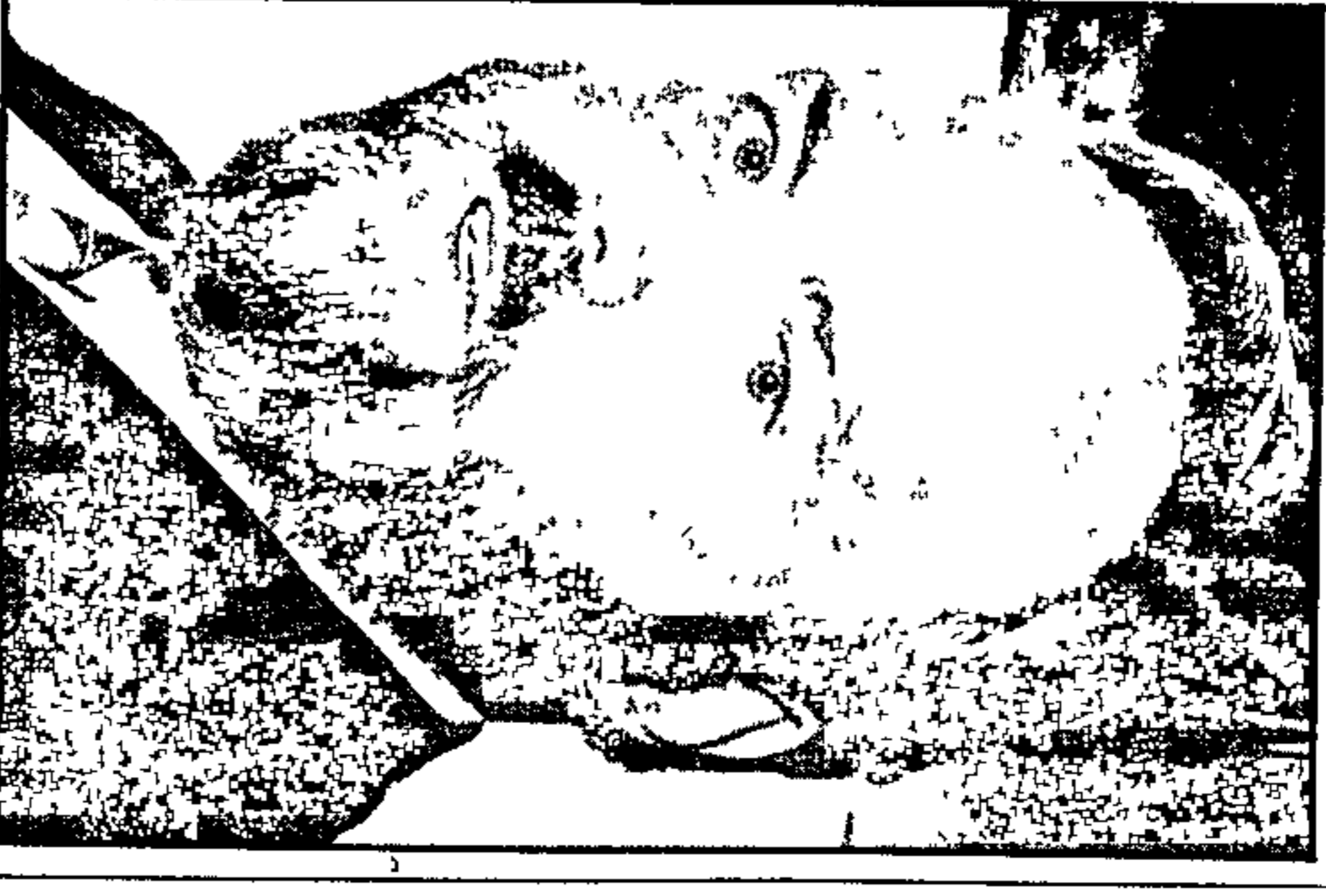
Depending on nutritional state and vitamin stores, hunger strikers can live between 45 and 70 days. In 1981 10 Irish hunger strikers died, most after lapsing into comas. Kieran Doherty lasted 73 days. He was blind, had lost most of his hearing, had no feeling in his right leg, was delirious and had been vomit-ting bile for days.



KEITH MATHEE Former BOSS spy is now Ciskei's Minister of Justice. Photograph: Ken Vernon



DEREK BRUNE Former police spy and NIS agent is now Sam Nujoma's head of security in Namibia



CRAIG WILLIAMSON Former security branch superspy has now quit the President's Council

Former campus spies come in from the cold

THREE former South African campus spies who operated in the early 1970s appear to have come in from the cold and performed complete turnabouts in their political careers in the past two decades.

The most recent case was that of the newly appointed Ciskei Minister of Justice, Keith Mathee.

A former self-confessed Bureau for State Security spy, Mr Mathee operated at Durban's University of Natal.

He made headlines when, as president of the Durban campus SRC, he confessed he had spied for Boss. Similarly, Derek Brune confessed in 1976 he was a police spy throughout his student career at the Univer-

sity of the Witwatersrand. Soon after Namibian independence he was appointed head of Swapo President Sam Nujoma's security department — the people he had been fighting!

Mr Brune was once a senior officer in Pretoria's National Intelligence Service and is cousin to former captured spy, Lieutenant Olivia Forsyth.

He was recently transferred to become acting commander of the Namibian police college, according to a Namibian police liaison officer.

The Saturday Star was unable to speak to him. A colleague said he was away on holiday.

Meanwhile, former Security Branch superspy Craig Williamson — who during his student days posed as a Nusas portfolio holder and became an ANC member — resigned from the State President's Council last year with a liberal message for State President de Klerk.

"One can't have a sole monopoly on power," He also said it was time for some form of interim power sharing.

Asked about his spying activities, Mr Williamson said this week "We were the young and foolish. He said the trio had all known each other while on campus."

"At the time I viewed my activities as a job which I was doing like a lot of other young white South Africans," said Mr Williamson. "I was committed to the National Party but I didn't analyse who was right and who was wrong. It's not that simple now."

"In 1989 I was one of the few NP members who stood for the elections saying we should be talking to the ANC." "I left the President's Council in 1990 because we need new people to run the country. I don't think it's productive to have the same people who were killing each other at the negotiating table."

He added that he was currently involved in business outside South Africa — specifically in Mozambique — but he declined to elaborate. This week Mr Mathee said he had repented of his spying activities. "I was only 18 at the time I had been raised in a conservative community in the Orange Free State. I was approached to spy for Boss before I entered university in 1973."

"But my ideas changed while I was at university and I finally made a public confession in 1976. My action dismayed my family especially my father who had been with the police force for 40 years."



I LOVE MY DAD . . . Cassia, 7, snuggles in father Ebrahim's arms for the first time as her mother, Dr Julie Wells, looks on. Picture: JAMES SOULLIER

Robben Island man home — to a hug from Cassia

RELEASED Robben Island prisoner Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim hugged his seven-year-old daughter, Cassia, for the first time yesterday.

"It's wonderful to hold her, to touch her," said Mr Ebrahim, who this week left the island a free man after a historic Appeal Court judgment.

"Most of the time while I was in prison I only saw my daughter through a little window. Now we'll have the chance to get to know each other."

Cassia's mother, Dr Julie Wells, an American now living in Harare and lecturing in history at the University of Zimbabwe, fought back tears as father and daughter clung together.

The couple met in 1979, after Mr Ebrahim's release from jail for Umkhonto we Sizwe activities. Dr Wells had been

By CAS St LEGER and GLENDA NEVILL

researching her thesis on women in South Africa.

Now, in a week or so, they will be going to Zimbabwe to rebuild their lives.

Mr Ebrahim was abducted at gunpoint from his home in Swaziland on the night of December 16 1986 by men he believes were members of the South African security forces.

He was bound, blindfolded and driven to a spot close to the South African border. Mr Ebrahim was then forced to climb through the border fence, handcuffed and chained in leg irons and taken to SAP headquarters in Pretoria.

The Appeal Court found that his abduction from Swaziland was a breach of international law and dismissed his 20-year prison sentence for treason.

Rightwingers call Afrikaner day of fasting

STWes 3/31/91
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FOUR rightwing groups yesterday called an Afrikaner day of fasting for Wednesday, to show solidarity with Orde Boerevolk leader Piet Rudolph and eight other prisoners on hunger strike.

As Rudolph, 55, survived his 26th day of hunger strike yesterday, OB spokesman Coen Vermaak revealed that the Khaki Pimpernel had received letters from his elderly mother in which she denounces his hunger strike, saying the body is the temple of God which should not be desecrated.

Critical

He's perturbed by his mother's stance, but he says he is a soldier of the volk. He has the right to take his life if the government does not meet his demands," said Mr Vermaak.

Parallels have been drawn between Rudolph and IRA member Bobby Sands, 27, the world's most famous hunger striker. Sands was admitted to hospital after 23 days. On Friday, Piet Rudolph was still in Pretoria Central Prison.

When Sands died in 1981 after 66 days without food, Belfast erupted in violence. And this week various right-wing groups warned of "violent repercussion" should Rudolph die.

Doctors have warned that the fourth week was the critical stage, when starvation levels greatly increased the risk of brain

heart or kidney failure.

Mr Vermaak, who saw Rudolph this week, said, "Piet looks like a skeleton. He has trouble speaking."

Rudolph's lawyer, Wim Cornelius, yesterday said Rudolph was totally committed to killing himself.

Mr. Cornelius said Rudolph was chalky white, suffered severe tinnitus in his right ear and was experiencing attacks of dizziness.

"His blood pressure has dropped dramatically, his heart beat has slowed down and he has lost 14,3kg between January 9 and February 27."

Suffering

The main demand of the OB is a referendum among Afrikaners only to establish whether the majority wants a unitary South Africa or a Volkstaat, Mr Vermaak said.

"Piet has written two letters to FW de Klerk. He never got a reply," he added.

Among the eight other prisoners who began a hunger strike on February 23 is Leonard Veenendaal, who ended a 28-day hunger strike on January 30 after he was promised a decision on indemnity "in a day or two". A month later, he had received no reply.

Five of the eight are believed to have been transferred to hospital, suffering from dehydration.

uesday, March 5 1991

CMT

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Judge reacts to 'Death Row' report

BLOEMFONTEIN. — The Chief Justice, Mr Justice M M Corbett, last night criticised press reports as "incorrect" and "misleading" about death row prisoners.

Mr Justice Corbett said a report appeared on page 2 of the Star on March 2 under the headline "Panel to decide on 170 death row prisoners".

He said the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1990 ("the new Act") was promulgated in July last year, changing the law in regard to the imposition of the death sentence. Prior to the new Act the death penalty was mandatory in murder cases if the accused was 18 or older, and where the court was un-

able to find extenuating circumstances.

The new Act abolished the mandatory death penalty. The death sentence was now imposed only after the court made a finding on the presence or absence of any mitigating or aggravating factors, and the presiding judge, with due regard to that finding, was satisfied that the sentence of death was the proper sentence.

The Chief Justice said the new Act also provided for an automatic right of appeal against a death sentence.

He said there were further innovations.

The criteria of the new Act were

applied to all those sentenced to death before July 27 when the appeal was heard. Between August and December 1990, 12 of 18 appellants' death sentences were confirmed.

The new Act also made provision for those persons convicted under the old law who had already exhausted all their legal remedies. They had recourse to a panel of judges or retired judges and other legal experts.

If it found that it would not have been imposed, the case would then be laid before the State President for the extension of mercy. If the death sentence would have been imposed, then

the case would go before the Appellate Division.

If the Appellate Division confirmed the death sentence, the accused could still petition the State President for clemency.

He said the Star article created the impression that the panel of judges, headed by Mr Justice Viljoen, would have the final say in "the fate of at least 170 South African death row prisoners".

He said no one would be executed without their case having been fully considered on appeal applying the criteria postulated by the new Act.

Afrikaners called to fast for hunger strikers

By Monica Nicolson *Star* 5/3/91

Right-wing organisations have called on all Afrikaners to join in a day of fasting tomorrow to show solidarity with Piet Rudolph and the other seven right-wing hunger strikers

A statement by Kallie Bredenhann on behalf of the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging, Boerestaat Party, Boere Weerstandsbeweging and Orde Boerevolk was telefaxed from the office of Jack Nel, Mr Rudolph's attorney

Mr Rudolph has been fasting since February 9 at Pretoria Central Prison, where he

is being kept with fellow hunger strikers Henk Bredenhann and Leonard Veenendaal

OB spokesman Coen Vermaak said he believed the condition of Mr Bredenhann and Mr Veenendaal was serious as both had stopped drinking water.

"They have deteriorated very fast and are in a worse condition than Mr Rudolph, who is also going downhill fast," he said

The other hunger strikers — Darryl Stopforth, Arthur Archer, Craig Barker, Corrie Lottering and Fanie Goosen — are in the Johannesburg Hospital where they are in a poor

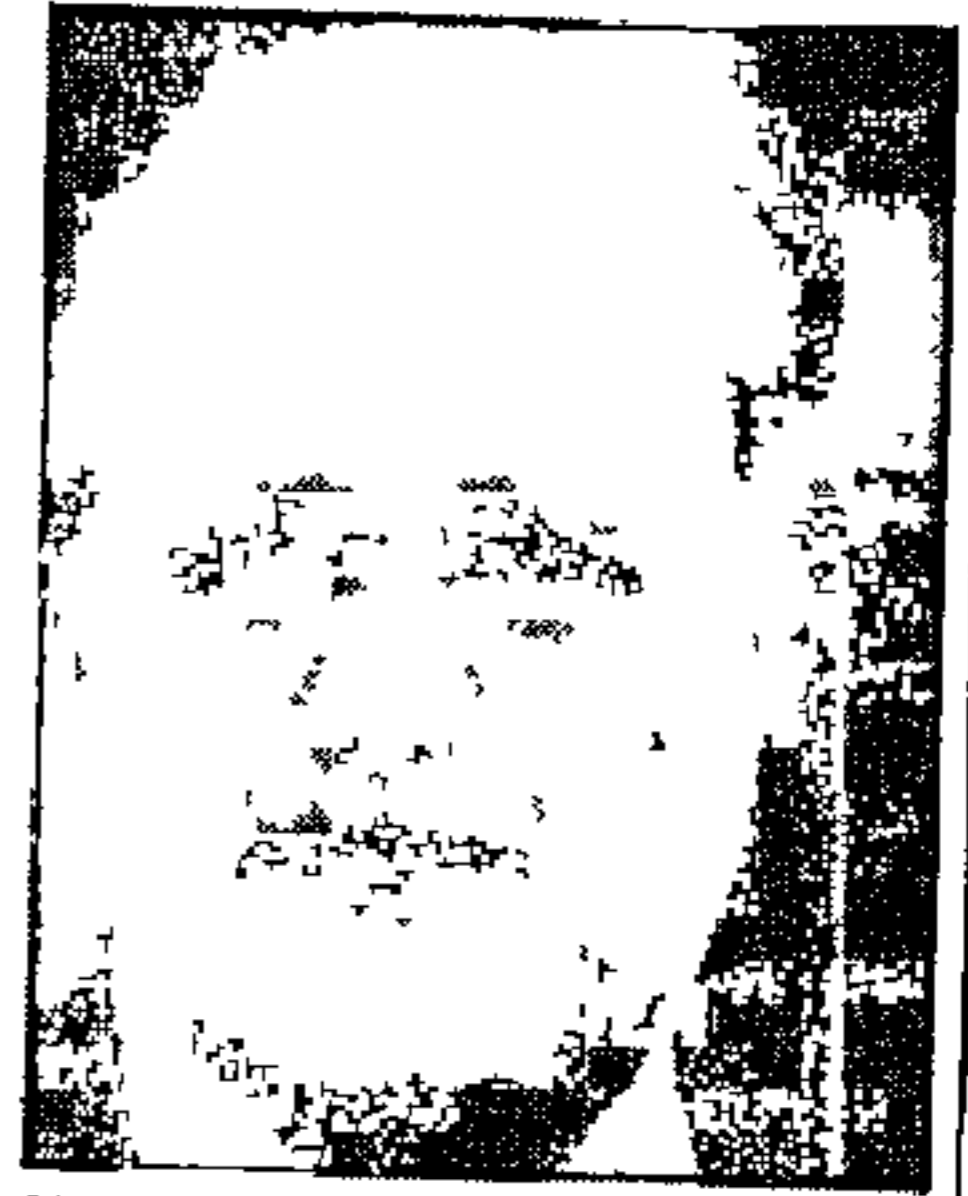
condition, according to their attorney, Wim Cornelius

Mr Archer, suffering from a lung infection, is said to have lost 20 kilograms Mr Barker has a heart condition

In an interview with Sapa, the wife of Mr Rudolph said he was determined to fast to his death (253) ~~253~~

Bregie Rudolph, who visited her husband yesterday, said he was thin and weak, but mentally very strong ~~253~~

She said he was being well looked after by the doctor appointed by the authorities and said she was satisfied with the treatment the prison services were offering him



No food . . . rightwingers call for day of fasting in solidarity with Piet 'Sklet' Rudolph.

New questions

Equal social pensions

*1 Mr E W TRENT asked the Minister of National Health *Answered S/3/91*

- (1) Whether, with effect from the date of repeal of the Population Registration Act, No 30 of 1950, equal social pensions will be paid to all South African citizens, regardless of their current race classification, if not, why not, if so,
- (2) whether any contingency plans have been made to give effect to this change in policy, if so, (a) what plans and (b) what is it estimated will it cost in total to implement this policy in the current financial year?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH
B238E

- (1) Social pensions are not payable in terms of the provisions of the Population Registration Act,
- (2) falls away

Certain person: false passport

*2 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Law and Order

- (1) Whether the South African Police have received information and/or complaints to the effect that a certain person, particulars of whom have been furnished to the Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, is or was in possession of a South African passport allegedly describing him falsely as Chris Alexander, if so, (a) what is the name of this person and (b) what steps have been taken in regard to the matter,
- (2) whether the Police conducted and/or are conducting investigations into the alleged illegal activities of this person, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant particulars,
- (3) whether a certain hotel, the name of which has been furnished to the South African Police, has been identified by the Police as an establishment where illegal activities have been taking place, if so, what steps have been taken in this regard,

- (4) whether the Commissioner of Police has ordered members of the Police Force to desist from assisting a Johannesburg newspaper in making further enquiries about the person in question, if so, why?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER
B244E

- (1) No
- (a) Alexander Kavouras
- (b) Falls away
- (2) Yes, investigation was instituted and help was questioned by the South African Police regarding alleged illegal activities
- (3) Yes, various arrests were effected in respect of prostitution at and in the vicinity of the hotel
- (4) No, an officer of the South African Police was originally approached for assistance after which he granted an interview to the specific newspaper. No information at the disposal of the South African Police was furnished to the newspaper

After it had become apparent during the Media Council proceedings in progress between the person referred to and the newspaper, that a civil suit could result therefrom and that the South African Police could become involved in such a suit if it furnished any information at its disposal to any of the parties, the officer was instructed not to furnish any such information to either the parties or the Media Council

Adv C D DE JAGER Mr Speaker, arising out of this reply and the arrest for suspected prostitution, can the hon the Minister inform us what Government's policy is in respect of prostitution, that is to say, whether or not it is going to legalise it? [Interjections]

The ACTING SPEAKER Order!

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER Mr Speaker, I am surprised that the hon member for Bethal, whom I know very well, should be interested in a matter such as this

*3 Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Finance *Answered S/3/91*

- (1) How many taxpayers in Soweto are registered with his Department,
- (2) whether any of these taxpayers are in arrears with the payment of tax, if so, (a) how many and (b) for what average period,
- (3) whether any action has been or is being taken against these persons, if not, why not, if so, what action?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (Dr M Marais)

The Commissioner for Inland Revenue retains statistics of taxpayers only in magisterial districts, and accordingly separate statistics in respect of Soweto, which forms part of the Johannesburg magisterial district, are not available

However, I wish to assure the hon member that all taxpayers, irrespective of race, receive impartial treatment from the Department of Finance and that active steps are taken against any taxpayer who is in arrears with the payment of tax

Diephloof Prison prisoners injured

*4 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Correctional Services *Answered S/3/91*

- (1) Whether any prisoners were injured by warders at Diephloof Prison on or about 1 February 1991, if so, (a) how many and (b) what was the nature of their injuries,
- (2) whether any action has been taken against the warders involved, if not, why not, if so, what action?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

On 1 February 1991 prisoners who were detained in cell A19 participated in a demonstration upon the unlocking of their cell to allegedly voice their dissatisfaction regarding complaints and requests which had not been dealt with to their satisfaction. In the process a document containing their grievances was handed to the section officer. The prisoners concerned were thereafter again locked up in their cell following which they became

riotous. In dealing with the latter situation which, inter alia, necessitated the removal of agitators from the cell, some of the prisoners sustained injuries. Once the ringleaders had been removed from the communal cell, order was restored and attention could be given to individual complaints and where justified, problems were solved *Answered S/3/91*

- (a) Eight (8) *Answered S/3/91*
- (b) Swellings, bruises, abrasions and lacérations. Injured prisoners received the necessary attention and have since then recovered

In line with general prevailing policy this incident was immediately investigated by the Head of the Prison and a report was submitted to the Commanding Officer who dealt with it suitably in terms of his powers and authority. Complaints of alleged assault were taken up with the South African Police, Mondoor, for the necessary investigation and for justice to take its usual course (CR numbers 244/02/91 and 245/02/91 refer). Depending on the outcome of this process suitable further steps will be taken, where justified

SAP promotion of communism

*5 Adv J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Law and Order *Answered S/3/91*

Whether the South African Police are at present investigating any case of contravention of the prohibition on promoting communism in South Africa, if so, (a) against what persons or organisations and (b) what progress has been made with these investigations, if not, why not? *Answered S/3/91*

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

No, because as far as can be ascertained, no complaints of this nature were reported to the South African Police

Warning of backlash if hunger striker dies

By Monica Nicolson

Starr
6/3/91

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The death of a right-wing hunger striker will result in a fierce backlash, Orde Boerfolk lawyer Jack Nel warned yesterday, saying "No martyr dies in vain"

"These people are determined to press ahead to the very end in an attempt to draw attention to the future of Afrikaners," said Mr Nel

Henk Bredemmann and Leonard Veenendaal have hardened their fast by severely restricting their liquid intake, Mr Nel said

"They are deteriorating fast and expect to go into comas very soon," he said

Mr Nel, who visited the Pretoria Central Prison on Monday, said Piet Rudolph had lost 20 kg and was suffering from kidney and liver damage and memory loss

Two of the right-wing hunger strikers who were hospitalised last week, Fame Goosen and Cornelius Lottering, have been transferred back to prison

It is not clear whether they have stopped their fast

Other hunger strikers, Darryl Stopforth, Arthur Archer and Craig Barker, are in the Johannesburg Hospital where they are in poor condition, according to their attorney, Wim Cornelius

Leeuwkop Maximum Prison. punishment

111 Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Correctional Services

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- (1) (a) How many prisoners received (i) dietary and (ii) other forms of punishment at the Leeuwkop Maximum Prison in the 1990 calendar year and (b) what, in each case, are the details of this punishment,
- (2) whether he will furnish the names of the prisoners who received such punishment, if not, why not, if so, what are their names in each case, *Answer 6/3/91.*
- (3) whether provision has been made at this prison for procedures for the filing of complaints by prisoners, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details?

B301E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

- (1) During the period 1 January 1990 to 31 December 1990 the following sentences were imposed at the Leeuwkop Maximum Prison in terms of the stipulations of the Prisons Act, 1959 (Act 8 of 1959),

(a) and (b)(i) In seventy five (75) cases

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

prisoners were sentenced to solitary confinement with dietary punishment in terms of section 54(2)(e)(ii) of the Prisons Act, 1959 (Act 8 of 1959)

253

- visiting officers of the command headquarters,
- the institutional committee,
- the Commissioner of Correctional Services and other visiting officers,
- visiting judges,
- visiting magistrates,
- visiting family and friends,
- legal advisers,
- the Legal Aid Board,
- the Court (Supreme Court) — notice of motion, etc

(a) and (b)(ii) In one hundred and fifty five (155) cases other sentences were imposed on prisoners in terms of the stipulations of section 54(2) of the Prisons Act, 1959 (Act 8 of 1959) The detail of which is as follows

- section 54(2)(a) In fourteen (14) cases prisoners were reprimanded
- section 54(2)(c) In one hundred and forty one (141) cases prisoners were sentenced to the deprivation of one or more meals on any one day

During this period no sentences in terms of section 54(2)(d) (corporal punishment) or section 54(2)(e)(i) (solitary confinement without dietary punishment) were imposed or served at the Leeuwkop Maximum Prison

- (2) No The privacy of prisoners is respected and it is therefore policy not to make details of individual prisoners available
- (3) Yes Regulation 103 of the Prisons Regulations issued in terms of the stipulations of section 94 of the Prisons Act, 1959 (Act 8 of 1959) sets out the procedures for dealing with complaints and requests Prisoners are daily afforded the opportunity to lodge complaints/requests The head of the prison or his delegate records the complaints/requests by entering them in the appropriate register whereafter such complaints/requests receive immediate attention Feedback is given to the prisoner as soon as the complaint/request have been dealt with

In addition to this prisoners may also lodge their complaints/requests to inter alia any of the following persons/institutions

- the member in charge of the section where the prisoners sleeps (continuous),
- the commanding officer,
- visiting district surgeon,
- visiting inspectors of prisons,

Private schools 'should get more govt assistance'

PRIVATE schools should get larger subsidies so that more people can afford them, the SA Institute of Race Relations says in a study published yesterday

In a new book, *The Blackboard Debate Hurdles, Options and Opportunities in School Integration*, author Monica Bot says private schools have more freedom to determine how and what pupils are taught

They also offered the opportunity for more parental and community involvement in areas such as curriculum and syllabus content

Granting private schools more state funding would help establish community schools, and this would meet black community demands for participation in education

Bot says since tax-paying parents have the right to send their children to state schools free of charge, it is not unrealistic to expect the state to increase subsidies to private schools

At present, private schools are generally seen as elitist, but with higher state subsidies, poorer people could also attend them

She says a change of curriculum is long overdue as schools do not equip people with the necessary skills for business

Bot also stresses the urgent need

for innovation in order to move away from racial education

The stipulation by Minister Piet Clase that open schools provide education using the culture of the "target group" — white Afrikaans or English pupils — as the point of departure implied that black pupils were to be assimilated into the existing ethos of the (formerly) white state schools

There was a need for a "core curriculum" with a diversity of cultural, language or ethnic groups.

This involved identifying common needs and values, and complementing them with content responding to the different cultural or religious needs

Co-ordination

However, Bot says this may be unacceptable due to inequalities between race groups, and that "under such conditions, differentiation may be viewed as a form of racism rather than a way of responding to specific needs or circumstances"

Although open private schools have grappled with such issues for more than a decade, some institutions have altered little and basically adhere to the national core curriculum

The fact that there is little co-ordi-

nation in developing new curriculum materials and content is partly because this process "is both time and cost-intensive, and many private schools already rely heavily on private sector funding"

Bot says private schools must adhere to certain minimum curriculum requirements of the education department, which results in the majority of the time being used to prepare pupils for the final examination, leaving little time for innovative content

She argues that integration should be voluntary if it is to be successful

Bot says there are some ways schools can cope academically with pupils from different backgrounds

These are by

- Applying admission criteria, such as entrance and aptitude tests,
- Starting integration from the lower standards,
- Providing bridging education to facilitate the transition,
- Employing remedial teachers,
- Placing limitations on the size of the school, and
- Establishing "magnet schools", which specialise in certain fields, with pupils' being allowed to select schools according to their preferences and talents

Students to address education crisis at national conference

SA's main student organisations will join forces to address the education crises in schools and tertiary institutions at a national conference in Johannesburg

In a statement yesterday, the National Union of SA Students (Nussas), the SA National Students Congress (Sansco), the Congress of SA Students (Cosas), the Azanian Students Congress (Azasco) and the Azanian Students Movement (Azasm) announced they would hold the consultative conference next month

They said SA was passing through the worst education crisis in its history. Illiteracy, poverty and violence were manifestations of both the education and political crises

The statement said the student bodies were concerned with inter-or-

ganisational violence, particularly where people of school-going age were at the forefront of the conflict

Tertiary institutions' inflexible admission criteria did not take into account the crisis background from which many students came

Besides the violence, the inadequate provision of technical resources and well-qualified teachers at black high schools was legendary

At the conference in April possible common solutions to the education crisis would be investigated

The practicalities of the "back to school" campaign would be discussed so would tertiary institution admission and exclusion policies, and social problems affecting students

TANIA LEVY

Piet Skiet ends his hunger strike

PATRICK BULGER

ORDE Boerevoik (OB) leader Piet "Skiet" Rudolph ended his hunger strike on the 30th day yesterday, convinced government would have let him and his followers starve to death

OB acting deputy leader Coen Vermaak said Rudolph and five followers ended their strike yesterday

"The strike proved government will not talk with any right-wing person," Vermaak said "We called off the strike because we realised they would die"

The Correctional Services Department said awaiting-trial prisoners Darryl Stopforth, Arthur Archer, Craig Barker, Henk Bredenhann and Leonard Veenendal had ended their strike. Sentenced prisoners Corrie Lottering and Fanie Goosen were still on a hunger strike

Star 213/91

All 8 right-wing detainees call halt to their fast

By Monica Nicolson

(253)

The hunger strike by rightwingers ended yesterday

A spokesman for the Department of Correctional Services confirmed that detained Orde Boerevolk leader Piet "Skiet" Rudolph and seven colleagues were eating again after weeks of fasting in protest against their detention

Apart from Mr Rudolph, those who have ended their fast are Henk Bredenhann, Leonard Veenendaal, Darryl Stopforth, Arthur Archer, Craig Barker, Fanie Goosen and Cornelius Lottering

The last to give up the fast were Mr Goosen and Mr Lottering, who held out until 6 pm yesterday at Diepkloof prison

The attorney representing OB members, Wim Cornelius, said they had called off the strike because the demand for the release or charging of detainees in terms of Section 29 of the Criminal Procedure Act had been met and jail conditions had been improved.

The strikers believed these changes had taken place during the hunger strike. They said certain people, whom they did not name, had been released or charged under Section 29.

Furthermore, letters sent by Mr Rudolph to President F W de Klerk had been acknowledged, Mr Cornelius said.

Further faxes have been sent by Mr Cornelius to the Ministry of Justice and the State President to expedite the applications for release and indemnity.

Mr Cornelius said the OB prisoners wanted to meet the government and the ANC to talk about the future, but this was possible only if they were granted indemnity.

Disappointed right snubs 'Piet Skiet'

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A RIGHT-WING show of solidarity for detained Orde Boerevolk (OB) leader Piet "Skiet" Rudolph yesterday turned into a massive snub

Only about 40 people turned out for a prayer service in support of Mr Rudolph and fellow right-wing detainees at the Pretoria show-grounds.

The service was to be a show-piece of solidarity and was to prove once and for all that right-wing factions could close ranks in times of crisis.

'God's will'

But it was apparent right-wingers felt Mr Rudolph and fellow OB detainees "had let them down" when they stopped their fast on Wednesday — the same day right-wingers across the country prepared to go without food in a show of support

OB attorney Mr Jack Nel asked the silent gathering to accept Mr Rudolph acted according to what he believed was God's will

"I was surprised to learn from Mr Rudolph that he had decided to abandon the hunger strike," he

PRETORIA CORRESPONDENT

said "Two days earlier he said he was a soldier in the struggle of the volk and was prepared to die"

Mr Nel said it appeared the hunger strikers made a one-sided decision at a time when people rallied around to support them and said Mr Rudolph was aware of what was happening outside.

Mr Rudolph decided to call off the hunger strike after he conferred with the Rev F J Pelser of the Verbondvolk Kerk in Kempton Park. "Piet told me Mr Pelser convinced him it was not God's will for him to die"

Mr Nel said Mr Rudolph had improved "significantly" since he started eating after a 31-day fast "He looks normal."

Mr Rudolph ate some cheese yesterday and would step up consumption of solids from today, Mr Nel said.

On Wednesday the attorney representing OB members, Wim Cornelius, said the demands of the hunger strikers had been met.

Tutu admitted to hospital

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PAC prisoner says no to release offer

THE sole Pan Africanist Congress inmate at the Johannesburg Prison, Tamsanqa Duma, has rejected political indemnity for the second time in as many months

In a letter smuggled out of the prison, Duma (33) says he intends sitting out the last three years of his sentence

He is the only PAC political prisoner among 19 other ANC inmates

Refused to respond

In the latest rejection of attempts to procure him an early release, Duma refused to respond to a letter from the Political Prisoners Release Programme, in which the organisation offered to campaign for his early release

"Although this organisation does not seem to be linked to the Government, I will not respond to them.

"I am a disciplined member of the PAC and its military wing Apla, and will not bother about indemnity or an early release until my leaders tell me to do so," he wrote.

Rejected overtures

Duma claims he also rejected overtures from an ANC delegation which visited its members at the prison in January

"In January members of the working group of the ANC, who are dealing with indemnity applications, came here, but I politely told them I do not wish to be included in their attempts to get indemnity for their members," Duma wrote.

Duma was arrested and convicted for terrorism in 1987. His colleagues were sent to Robben Island.

He is due to be released in early 1994 - Sapa

Prisoners accommodated

100 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Correctional Services

- (1) (a) How many prisoners can be accommodated in South African prisons at present, (b) what was the daily average prison population as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (c) how many unsentenced prisoners were in prison in the Republic on that date,
- (2) whether any prisons were over-populated in 1990, if so, (a) which prisons and (b) what was the average rate of over-population in each case?

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THE MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES**

- (1) (a) According to the norm mentioned below, 83 986 on 31 December 1990
- (b) The daily average for December 1990 is 97 066 (See Annexure A for analysis of sentences)
- (c) On 31 December 1990 there were 22 081 unsentenced prisoners in South African prisons

(2) Yes, in the sense that the norm was exceeded. It is however known that the accommodation figure for South African prisons is determined against a broad norm and the highest standards of hygiene and health are maintained. Furthermore, it must also be taken into account that a large percentage of the prisoners are not in physical detention during the day since they are then involved in training and treatment programmes, recreation, etc. Seen against this background overcrowding is not unmanageable.

The occupancy level of prisons is however monitored continuously in order to determine needs and to take corrective action. These actions include inter alia the following:

— The extending of existing prisons/building of new prisons where necessary. This is naturally done in accordance with long-term planning and is cost-intensive.

— The transferring of prisoners to prisons with a lower occupancy level, in order to obtain a more evenly distributed population.

— The granting of special remission of sentence (occasional) to sentenced prisoners in terms of section 69(1) of the Prisons Act, 1959 (Act 8 of 1959)

— Continuous contact with other concerned parties in order to promote alternative sentence options

The Government has also recently decided to extend community-based sentences and it is intended to introduce legislation during the present session of Parliament, authorising presiding magistrates and judges to impose a sentence option of Probation or Correctional Supervision. The mentioned option will be managed by the Department of Correctional Services and is expected to contribute to minimise the overcrowding of prisons. This system is already being operated in various countries abroad with success for instance in Canada where detention in prisons amounts to ±48% and probation to ±38% of the sentence options which are being practised.

(a) and (b) On December 1990 the position was as follows:

| WESTERN CAPE, BOLLAND AND SOUTHERN CAPE Prisons | % over-populated |
|---|------------------|
| Allandale | 38,0 |
| (The erection of a new prison is included in the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs' five-year building programme) | |
| Beaufort West | 5,3 |
| (The erection of a new prison is included in the major works services programme) | |
| Brandvlei Maximum | 68,2 |
| (The erection of a new prison at Kweekkraal is included in the major works services programme) | |
| Brandvlei Medium | 33,9 |
| (The erection of the new prison has been completed only kitchen equipment is to be installed) | |
| Buffeljagstriver | 5,3 |
| (The modernisation of the prison with the erection of a section for unsentenced male prisoners is included in the major works services programme) | |

Caledon

(Modernisation is in progress)

Dwaarsrivier

(The modernisation of the prison is included in the building programme)

George Male

(Modernisation of the prison is being planned)

Hawequa

(Modernisation included in the building programme)

Helderstroum Maximum

Helderstroum Medium

Krystna

(The expected date of completion of the new prison is April 1991)

Malmesbury

(Modernisation of the prison is being planned)

Obiqua

(Modernisation is included in the building programme)

Oudtshoorn

(Civil works have already been completed. The building of a new prison will commence in the near future)

Paarl

(A new prison which will be erected at Allandale will also alleviate this situation)

Pollsmoor Maximum

(A new prison is being erected)

Riebeeck West

(Modernisation of the prison is included in the building programme)

Robben Island Medium

Robertson

Stellenbosch

(A new prison which is being planned at Kraaifontein will alleviate this situation)

Staat van Paardeberg

(Modernisation of the prison is included in the building programme)

Umondale

Victor Verster Maximum

Victor Verster Medium A

Victor Verster Medium B

Victoria West

Voorberg

(The erection of a new prison is included in the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs' five-year building programme)

Warnbokveld

(Modernisation of the prison is included in the building programme)

Worcester Female

(The modernisation at the Worcester Male Prison includes the Female Prison)

Worcester Male

(Modernisation is in progress)

Apart from the new prisons and alterations to existing prisons as mentioned above the erection of the following prisons appear on the Department of Correctional Services' major works services programme and the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs' five-year building programme:

| | % over-populated |
|---|------------------|
| Atlantis | |
| Darling | |
| Graaff-Reinet | |
| Vredendal/Clanwilliam | |
| EASTERN CAPE (including Goedemoed Prison) | |
| Prison | |
| East London Medium A | 36,7 |
| East London Medium B | 52,4 |
| (Modernisation is in progress which will also lighten the situation at the Medium A Prison) | |
| General J C Steyn | 26,1 |
| (The erection of a new prison is included in the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs' five-year building programme) | |

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Goedemoed Medium B 14,5 Grootvlei Maximum 51,9

Jansenville 15,2 (The erection of a new prison is included in the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs' five-year building programme)

(Extensions, alterations and improvements are included in the building programme)

St Albans Maximum 38,8 Grootvlei Medium 39,9

(The new prison at St Albans Medium B with accommodation for 1 191 prisoners has been completed and has already been commissioned A further prison with accommodation for 610 prisoners is included in the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs' five-year building programme)

St Albans Medium B 17,1

Apart from the new prisons and alterations to existing prisons as mentioned above, four new prisons (at Elliot, Alwal North, Barkly East and Queenstown) appear on the major works services programme A prison farm for the Eastern Cape is also included in the major works services programme

NORTHERN CAPE

Prison % over-populated

Calvinia 33,3

(Modernisation of the prison is being planned)

Kimberley Male 54,2

(The modernisation of the prison is almost completed)

Van Rhynsdorp 29,0

Apart from the new prisons and alterations to existing prisons as mentioned above, the erection of the following prisons is included in the major works services programme

A prison farm in the Warrenton area (Mayeng)

A new prison at Vryburg Civil works have already been completed

ORANGE FREE STATE (excluding PWV area)

Prison % over-populated

Bethlehem Male 4,3

Bloemfontein 30,7

(See the note at Grootvlei)

Fauresmith 30,6

(The erection of a new prison is included in the major works services programme)

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Vereeniging Male 11,1 WESTERN TRANSVAAL

(The modernisation is included in the building programme)

Apart from the new prisons and alterations to existing prisons as mentioned above, a new prison at Boksburg is already under construction

EASTERN TRANSVAAL

Prison % over-populated

Barberton Maximum 37,5

Barberton Medium A 66,0

Barberton Medium B 37,7

Bethal Male 5,2

Middelburg (Tvl) 33,6

Witbank 35,7

(The erection of a new prison is included in the priority list for inclusion in the major works services programme)

Apart from the new prison at Witbank as mentioned above, the erection of new prisons at Secunda and Bronkhorstspuit are included in the major works services programme

NORTHERN TRANSVAAL

Prison % over-populated

Bavaanspoort Maximum 58,8

(Modernisation of the prison is in progress)

Bavaanspoort Medium 50,3

(The erection of a new prison at Bavaanspoort is included in the building programme Civil engineering works have been completed and the erection of the prison will commence shortly)

Nylstroom 15,9

Pietersburg 39,7

(The erection of a new prison is included in the major works services programme)

Apart from the new prisons and alterations to existing prisons as mentioned above, a prison at Alldays as well as the modernisation/extension of the existing prison at Louis Trichardt are included in the major works services programme A new prison at Zondervater is completed and has already been commissioned

WESTERN TRANSVAAL

Prison % over-populated

Klerksdorp 26,9

Potchefstroom 14,2

Apart from the prisons mentioned above, the erection of new prisons at Lichtenburg, Wolmarasstad and Zeerust are included in the major works services programme

NATAL

Prison % over-populated

Bergville 3,2

Dundee 4,3

Empangeni 24,1

(The erection of a new prison at Richards Bay which is being planned, will alleviate the situation)

Kokstad 38,6

(The erection of a new prison is included in the major works services programme)

Matatiele 1,6

Melmoth 6,8

Mtunzini 52,7

Pietermaritzburg Medium A 36,2

Port Shepstone 20,5

(The erection of a new prison is included in the major works services programme)

Umtzinto 14,4

(Civil engineering services for a new prison have been completed and tenders for the erection of the prison will be requested during 1992/93)

Waterval Medium A 16,0

Waterval Medium B 28,1

Apart from the new prisons and alterations to existing prisons as mentioned above, a prison farm for this region is included in the major works services programme as well as new prisons at Bergville, Bulwer, Pongola and Stanger Extensions, alterations and improvements at Bergville, Bulwer and Nongoma prisons are being planned New prisons for Estcourt, Greytown and Ikopo are also in-

cluded in the major works services programme

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

(a) and (b) Yes

The Department of Correctional Services annually provides a priority list of identified building projects to the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs with a view to incorporating them in the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs' five-year building programme according to which building work is programmed for a term of five (5) years

This programme is revised annually according to the availability of funds. The fact that a specific project appears on the major works services programme does not imply that it will be executed within five (5) years

The average rate of over-population in South Africa prisons on 31 December 1990 was 8,8% in comparison with 26,26% on 31 December 1989

ANNEXURE A

ANALYSIS OF THE PRISON POPULATION AS ON 31 DECEMBER 1990

| SENTENCED | 1990-12-31 |
|--|------------|
| Up to and including 6 months | 2 367 |
| More than 6 months to under 2 years | 3 882 |
| 2 years to 5 years | 28 607 |
| Longer than 5 years to 10 years | 21 438 |
| Indeterminate sentences | 3 934 |
| Longer than 10 years to 20 years | 7 497 |
| Longer than 20 years and imprisonment for life | 1 233 |
| UNSENTENCED | 22 081 |
| OTHERS | 370 |
| (Psychopaths, corporal punishment, persons sentenced to death) | 91 409 |
| Total | 91 409 |

Prisoners escaped

113 Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Correctional Services

Whether any (a) awaiting-trial and (b) sentenced prisoners held in custody escaped from prisons in South Africa in 1990, if so, (i) how many prisoners escaped, (ii) from which prisons did they escape, and (iii) how many were recaptured, in each case?

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are such that his security risk is reduced, he may be considered for reclassification to a lower security classification and considered for a transfer to a prison with a lower security classification. Naturally the opposite also applies, and should a prisoner's conduct, adaptation and co-operation indicate that he is a high security risk, he is dealt with accordingly.

Finally, it should be noted that there is a high degree of stability in South African prisons. Although incidents of disorder, revolt, assault and so

forth cannot be prevented entirely in any prison set-up, they are limited to a minimum in comparison with prisons abroad. This situation can be attributed mainly to the military character of the Department of Correctional Services and the resulting firm, yet humane manner in which discipline and order are maintained. Furthermore, a variety of treatment and other programmes have as their object the establishment of a satisfied prison population.

(ii) and (iii) For the Honourable Member's convenience the detail is set out in the enclosed schedule

| Prison | Awaiting-trial prisoners | | Sentenced prisoners | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|
| | Escaped | Recaptured | Escaped | Recaptured |
| ALLANDALE PRISON COMMAND | | | | |
| Allandale | | | 5 | 3 |
| Hawegua | | | 2 | 1 |
| Klein Drakenstein | | | 1 | 0 |
| Malmesbury | | | 1 | 1 |
| Paarl | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| Riebeck West | | | 2 | 2 |
| Staat van Paardeberg | | | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 8 | 6 | 12 | 8 |
| BARBERTON PRISON COMMAND | | | | |
| Barberton Med B | | | 9 | 2 |
| Barberton Max | | | 8 | 5 |
| Barberton Town | | | 9 | 1 |
| Lydenburg | | | 3 | 0 |
| Nelspruit | | | 6 | 1 |
| Total | | | 35 | 9 |
| BAVIAANSPPOORT PRISON COMMAND | | | | |
| Baviaanspoort Med | | | 4 | 8 |
| Louis Trichardt | | | 4 | 3 |
| Nyström | | | 14 | 8 |
| Pietersburg | 5 | 1 | 6 | 6 |
| Tzaneen | | | 5 | 4 |
| Total | 5 | 1 | 52 | 29 |

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| Prison | Awaiting-trial prisoners | | Sentenced prisoners | | |
|--------|--------------------------|------------|---------------------|---|------------|
| | Escaped | Recaptured | Escaped | From work-teams, courts, hospitals, etc | Recaptured |

| BETHAL PRISON COMMAND | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|---|----|----|
| Bethal Men | 26 | 13 | | | |
| Ermelo | | | 7 | | 3 |
| Geluk | | | 3 | | 2 |
| Piet Retief | | | 7 | | 3 |
| Standerton | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Volksrust | | | 3 | | 2 |
| | | | 3 | | 2 |
| | | | 5 | | 2 |
| Total | 26 | 13 | 1 | 28 | 13 |

| BLOEMFONTEIN PRISON COMMAND | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bloemfontein | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Brandfort | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Fauresmith | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Grootvlei Max | | | 2 | | 2 |
| Hoopstad | 2 | 1 | | | |
| Wepener | 1 | 1 | | | 0 |
| Total | 4 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 4 |

| BRANDVLEI PRISON COMMAND | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|---|--|---|
| Brandvlei | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Total | | | 1 | | 1 |

| DURBAN PRISON COMMAND | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|----|--|---|
| Durban Med C | | | 12 | | 5 |
| Stanger | | | 2 | | 2 |
| Verulam | | | 2 | | 1 |
| Total | | | 16 | | 8 |

| GEORGE PRISON COMMAND | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|---|---|----|
| George Men | | | 2 | | 1 |
| Ladismith | | | 2 | | 4 |
| Mossel Bay | | | 4 | | 4 |
| Victoria West | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Total | | | 2 | 9 | 10 |

| GLENCOE PRISON COMMAND | | | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|
| Empangeni | | | 4 | | 3 |
| Eshowe | 3 | 0 | 4 | | 3 |
| Glencoe | | | 8 | | 4 |
| Ladysmith | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Melmoth | | | 1 | | 0 |
| Utrecht | | | 3 | | 1 |

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| Prison | Awaiting-trial prisoners | | Sentenced prisoners | | |
|--------|--------------------------|------------|---------------------|---|------------|
| | Escaped | Recaptured | Escaped | From work-teams, courts, hospitals, etc | Recaptured |

| Waterval Med A | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|--|--|--|
| Total | 3 | 0 | | | |

| GOEDEMOED PRISON COMMAND | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|---|----|----|
| Barkly East | | | | | |
| Bethulle | | | 2 | | 1 |
| Burgersdorp | | | 2 | | 2 |
| Goedemoed Med A | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Middelburg CP | | | 1 | | 8 |
| | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Total | | | 1 | 14 | 13 |

| GROENPUNT PRISON COMMAND | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|----|---|
| Groenpunt Max | | | 3 | | 4 |
| Groenpunt Med | | | 6 | | 1 |
| Sasolburg | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Vereenging Men | 8 | 3 | | | 1 |
| Total | 8 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 7 |

| JOHANNESBURG PRISON COMMAND | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|---|----|----|----|
| Johannesburg Med A | 11 | 3 | | | |
| Johannesburg Med B | | | 5 | | 12 |
| Johannesburg Med C | | | 1 | | 16 |
| Johannesburg Women | | | 1 | | 8 |
| Krugersdorp | | | 26 | | 0 |
| Total | 11 | 3 | 32 | 50 | 23 |

| KANDASPUNT | | | | | |
|------------|--|--|---|--|----|
| Kandaspunt | | | 3 | | 32 |
| Total | | | 3 | | 0 |

| KIMBERLEY PRISON COMMAND | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|---|----|---|
| Barkly West | | | 4 | | 2 |
| De Aar | | | 7 | | 3 |
| Douglas | | | 1 | | 3 |
| Kimberley Men | | | 5 | | 8 |
| Kuruman | | | 1 | | 9 |
| Upington | | | 1 | | 2 |
| Total | | | 8 | 29 | 1 |

| Prison | Awaiting-trial prisoners | | Sentenced prisoners | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------|---------------------|---|------------|
| | Escaped | Recaptured | Escaped | From work-teams, courts, hospitals, etc | Recaptured |
| Potchefstroom | 1 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 4 |
| Rustenburg | 1 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| Total | 1 | 0 | 3 | 23 | 13 |
| KROONSTAD PRISON COMMAND | | | | | |
| Bethlehem | | | 4 | | 3 |
| Harrismuth | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Hennenman | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Kroonstad Med A | | | 1 | | 2 |
| Kroonstad Med B | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Parys | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Senekal | | | 3 | | 3 |
| Ventersburg | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Virginia | | | 1 | | 5 |
| Total | | | 8 | 29 | 18 |
| LEEUEWKOP PRISON COMMAND | | | | | |
| Leeuwkop Med A | | | 1 | 42 | 10 |
| Leeuwkop Med B | | | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Leeuwkop Med C | | | 8 | | |
| Total | | | 1 | 52 | 13 |
| MODDERBEE PRISON COMMAND | | | | | |
| Heidelberg | | | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Modderbee Med | 10 | 0 | 28 | 11 | 9 |
| Nigel | | | 11 | | 6 |
| Total | 10 | 0 | 42 | | 15 |
| EAST LONDON PRISON COMMAND | | | | | |
| King Williams Town | | | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| East London Med A | | | 11 | | 4 |
| East London Med B | 3 | 1 | 1 | | |
| Queenstown | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 0 |
| Total | 4 | 2 | 14 | | 5 |
| PIETERMARTITZBURG PRISON COMMAND | | | | | |
| Bergville | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Greytown | | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| New Hanover | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Pietermaritzburg Men | | | 18 | | 7 |
| Port Shepstone | | | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Seventeen | | | 11 | | 3 |
| Total | 7 | 4 | 34 | | 12 |

| Prison | Awaiting-trial prisoners | | Sentenced prisoners | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|---------------------|---|------------|
| | Escaped | Recaptured | Escaped | From work-teams, courts, hospitals, etc | Recaptured |
| POLLSMOOR PRISON COMMAND | | | | | |
| Pollsmoor Max | | | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| Pollsmoor Med A | | | 1 | 20 | 10 |
| Pollsmoor Med B | | | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Total | | | 5 | 26 | 18 |
| PORT ELIZABETH PRISON COMMAND | | | | | |
| Craddock | | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Grahamstown | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Jansenville | | | 2 | | 2 |
| Gen J C Steyn | | | 1 | 11 | 6 |
| Port Elizabeth | 4 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Somerset East | | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| St Albans Max | | | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| St Albans Med B | | | 1 | 6 | 4 |
| Total | 6 | 0 | 2 | 31 | 23 |
| PRETORIA PRISON COMMAND | | | | | |
| Brits | | | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Losperfontein | | | 1 | 11 | 4 |
| Pretoria Local | 3 | 1 | 3 | 26 | 20 |
| Pretoria Central | | | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Voortrekkerhoogte | | | 10 | | 0 |
| Total | 3 | 1 | 8 | 49 | 27 |
| VICTOR VERSTER PRISON COMMAND | | | | | |
| Bien Donne | | | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Stellenbosch | 4 | 4 | 6 | | 3 |
| Victor Verster Med A | | | 6 | | |
| Total | 4 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 6 |
| WITBANK PRISON COMMAND | | | | | |
| Belfast | | | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Carolina | | | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Middelburg | | | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Witbank | | | 14 | | 8 |
| Total | | | 1 | 22 | 15 |
| WORCESTER PRISON COMMAND | | | | | |
| Dwaarsriver | | | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Obiqua | | | 1 | 1 | 1 |

| Prison | Awaiting-trial prisoners | | Sentenced prisoners | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|---------------------|---|------------|
| | Escaped | Recaptured | Escaped | From work-teams, courts, hospitals, etc | Recaptured |
| Warmbokveld | | | | | 1 |
| Worcester Men | | | | | 3 |
| Total | | | | | 7 |
| ZONDERWATER PRISON COMMAND | | | | | |
| Zonderwater | | 2 | | 5 | 5 |
| Total | | 2 | | 5 | 5 |

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES **The MINISTER OF HOUSING**

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version

For written reply

Own Affairs

College complex/flats purchased

3 Mr C E GREEN asked the Minister of Housing:

- (1) Whether the Administration House of Representatives recently purchased the college complex and flats of *The Church of the Nazarene*, if so, (a) when, (b) for what purpose, (c) for what sum and (d) what was the valuation of the buildings before they were purchased,
- (2) whether the complex and flats concerned are being used for the purpose for which they were purchased, if not, why not,
- (3) whether the buildings are standing empty at present, if so, since when,
- (4) whether sections of the buildings are being let, if so, (a) to whom and (b) from whom applications to rent them have been received,
- (5) whether an agreement in respect of the use of the buildings was entered into with the church association concerned, if so, what are the relevant details?

C19E

(1) Yes

(a) 8 August 1990

(b) Centre for cultural activities of the Department of Education and Culture and for the purposes of the Department of Health Services and Welfare

(c) R2 100 000,00

(d) R2 265 000,00

(2) No A probe into the best possible use to which the property could be put within the framework of the purpose for which it was acquired, is still under way

(3) No In order to avoid vandalism it has been partly let since purchasing

(4) Yes

(a) The buildings are being partly let in the Church and Hall to the Church of the Nazarene, the two dwellings to the Reverend L Cupido and Mr J A Hamilton respectively and the three flats to Civil Servants Messrs R Abrahams, A Josephs and G Charity at market related rentals

(b) Applications to hire were received from Messrs R Abrahams, A Josephs, R Uren, P P Kivido, Mrs M S Petersen, The Church of the Nazarene and the Uitenhage Congregational Church on behalf of the Gelvandale Congregational Church, Port Elizabeth

(5) No Only a legal verbal understanding was reached as the property will shortly, upon conclusion of the inquiry be utilised for the purpose for which it was acquired

Overcrowding drops in jails

CMH-FIA 12/3/91 283

By BARRY STREEK

THE prisons are still heavily overcrowded, but the overpopulation has dropped from 26,26% at the end of 1989 to 8,8% at the end of last year

The most overcrowded is Pollsmoor, which was 122% over-populated on December 31 last year. But a new prison is being erected there

The Minister of Correctional Services, Mr Kobie Coetsee, said yesterday that on December 31 last year 83 896 prisoners could be accommodated. But the daily average occupation in December 1990 was 97 066

There were also 22 081 unsentenced prisoners on December 31, he said in reply to a question tabled in Parliament by Mr David Dalling, DP Sandton

Prisons were overcrowded in the sense that the norm was exceeded.

"It is known, however, that the accommodation figure for South African prisons is determined against a broad norm and the highest standards of hygiene and health are maintained

"Furthermore, it must also be taken into account that a large percentage of the prisoners are not in physical detention during the day since they are then involved in training and treatment programmes, recreation, etc

"Seen against this background, overcrowding is not unmanageable"

Corrective action

The occupancy level of prisons was also monitored continuously to determine needs and to take corrective action

This included the extensions of existing prisons where necessary, the transferring of prisoners to prisons with a lower occupancy

level to obtain a more evenly-distributed population, the granting of special remission of sentence to prisoners and continuous contact with other concerned parties to promote alternative service options

Mr Coetsee said the most overcrowded prisons in the Western Cape were

Pollsmoor Maximum (122%), Oudtshoorn (82,7%), Helderstroom Maximum (75%), Victor Verster Maximum (72,8%), Victor Verster Medium B (71,4%), Knysna (68,6%), Brandvlei Maximum (68,2%), Worcester (67%), Uniondale (58,1%), Worcester Female (48,7%), Victor Verster Medium A (42,6%), Paarderberg (42,5%), Helderstroom Minimum (41,5%), Malmesbury (40,4%), Paarl (40,8%), Stellenbosch (40%), Allandale (38%), Riebeeck West (34,6%) and Brandvlei Medium (33,9%)

No political prisoners freed 'since Mandela'

253

DURBAN — Since the freeing of ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela, not a single political prisoner had been released from SA's jails, ANC information head Pallo Jordan said in Durban at the weekend.

Jordan was a guest speaker at a function marking the 20th anniversary of the alternative newspaper Al-Qalaam

6/10/91 12/3/91
"There are in excess of 2 000 political prisoners in SA jails. And, in fact, the government has not yet amnestied one single prisoner. All those who have been freed thus far have merely received remission in their sentences.

"These amount to less than 10% of the political prisoners who should have benefited from the Groote Schuur Minute"

The last days of apartheid were creating intense inner conflict and turmoil in the country.

Speaking on the Press, Jordan said the ANC had been the keenest advocate of freedom of the media.

"We have struggled to entrench that tradition in our country and have supported all those, whether we share their beliefs or not, whose works, writings or creations have been banned by either secular or ecclesiastical authorities."

The ANC would continue to uphold those principles, whether it was in opposition or in government, because they were of abiding value, he said — Sapa.

New Bill proposes sweeping powers for immigration officers

CAPE TOWN — Wider

BILLY PADDOCK

Moves to curb prison overcrowding proposed

Star 12/3/91 - 253

There were 22 081 unsentenced prisoners in South Africa's overpopulated jails on December 31 1990, Minister of Justice and Correctional Services Kobie Coetsee said in Parliament yesterday.

They made up nearly a quarter of the total average 97 066 people in prison during December 1990.

According to prescribed norms, the total prison population should have been 83 986.

Figures

In a written reply to questions from Dave Dalling (DP Sandton), Mr Coetsee's figures point out that Pollsmoor Prison was the most overpopulated at 122 percent

It was followed by Johannesburg Medium A at 83 percent and Oudtshoorn at 82,7 percent.

Other prisons which were overcrowded by more than 50 percent on December 31 were Brandvlei Maximum (68,2 percent), Helderstroom Maximum (75 percent), Knysna (68,6 percent), Uniondale (58,1 percent), Victor Verster Maximum (72,8 percent), Victor Verster Medium B (71,4 per-

cent), Worcester male (67 percent), East London Medium B (52,4 percent) and Kimberley male (54,2 percent)

Also included were Grootvlei Maximum (51,9 percent), Johannesburg Medium B (63,3 percent), Leeuwkop Maximum (74,2 percent), Modderbee (50,4 percent), Barberton Medium A (66 percent), Baviaanspoort Maximum (58,8 percent), Baviaanspoort Medium (50,3 percent) and Mtunzini (52,7 percent).

"The average rate of overpopulation of South African prisons on December 31 1990 was 8,8 percent in comparison with 26,26 percent on December 31 1989," Mr Coetsee said.

In an annexure attached to the reply, figures show that the majority of prisoners — 28 607 — were sentenced to between two and five years. There were 21 438 serving time of between five and 10 years

Consequently, the prison population is made up mostly of medium-term and unsentenced prisoners

Mr Coetsee said the Government intended introducing legislation during this session of Parliament to authorise magistrates and judges to impose a



Kobie Coetsee . . . prison overcrowding to be addressed.

sentence option of probation or correctional supervision.

"The option will be managed by the Department of Correctional Services and is expected

to help minimise the overcrowding of prisons."

Mr Coetsee said the level of occupancy in prisons was monitored continuously. — Sapa

Questions and answers

A total of 826 people escaped from custody during 1990, Minister of Justice Kobie Coetsee said in the House of Assembly yesterday.

In a written reply to a question from Tony Leon (DP Houghton), Mr Coetsee said 726 sentenced and 100 awaiting-trial prisoners had escaped.

The escapers represented a total of 0,23 percent of the number of people admitted to South African prisons by police and courts during 1990.

Only 85 prisoners had escaped from prisons; 641 had fled from work teams, courts and hospitals.

By December 31 last year, 353 sentenced and 40 awaiting-trial prisoners had been re-arrested.

□ □ □

A total of 5 456 claims had been

brought against the police in 1990, of which 229 were settled out of court at a cost to the State of R611 132,48, Minister of Law and Order Adriaan Vlok said in the House of Assembly yesterday.

In a written reply to a question from Tony Leon, (DP Houghton), he said the total amount of damages awarded against the police by the courts during 1990 was R846 317,67.

In 1987 there were 3 775 claims brought against the police, in 1988 there were 3 903 and 1989 3 678.

The 229 claims settled out of court for 1990 were lower than the 277 for 1989, the 360 for 1988 and 1987's 357.

In 1987 the amount settled out of court was R677 452,66, in 1988 it was R699 594,86 and in 1989 R686 135,78



Tony Leon

The damages awarded by the courts in 1987 was R489 187,24, in 1988 R209 995,75 and in 1989 R182 422,28.

□ □ □

There were people who had previously been members of the ANC and PAC who were now members of the SA Police, Minister of Law and Order Adriaan

Vlok said in the House of Assembly yesterday

In a written reply to a question from J J Prinsloo (CP Roo deport), Mr Vlok said it was not in the public interest, nor in the interest of members themselves, to say how many had become members of the SAP or what race group they belonged to.

□ □ □

There had been 270 cases of Aids identified in 1990, Minister of National Health Dr Rin. Venter said in the House of Assembly yesterday

In a written reply to a question from Mike Ellis (DP Durban North), Dr Venter said the figure excluded the independent black states. No information on Aids cases in the independent states was available. — Sapa.

soner of Correctional Services on their suitability or otherwise of remaining in the Department of Correctional Services or retaining their ranks or seniority The conduct of the members which gave rise to the inquiries was inter alia the following

- the members took part in a strike and this conduct was considered prejudicial to the administration, discipline and efficiency of the Department of Correctional Services,
- as a result of their participation in strikes the members were suspended and they failed to comply with the conditions of their suspension

(2) Yes

(a) In compliance with Prisons Regulation 77(4) a presiding officer makes no recommendations following the conclusion of an inquiry He only records his findings

(b) The presiding officer found that twelve of the defendants were not competent to retain their rank, twelve were not suitable for retaining their seniority in rank while the remaining twelve defendants were found to be competent to continue their services in the rank and position they occupied before the inquiry

(3) In terms of the stipulations of Prisons Regulation number 77(4) the commissioned officer who held the inquiry pronounced his findings and his reasons therefor at the conclusion thereof and submitted the record of the proceedings together with a written statement of his findings and his reasons therefor to the delegate of the Commissioner for a decision in terms of section 13 of the Prisons Act, 1959 (Act 8 of 1959) It was decided that four (4) members would be dismissed, two (2) members be demoted in rank and thirty (30) members be demoted in seniority

Section 13 of the Prisons Act also states that a member may appeal to the Minister against any order discharging him or demoting him in rank or in seniority and in such event the Minister may confirm,

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Certain members: investigations

*10 Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Correctional Services *Hansard 12/3/91*

- (1) Whether any investigations have been instituted against certain members of his Department in King William's Town in connection with certain actions taken by them between 21 and 23 March 1990, if so, what actions,
- (2) whether these investigations have been completed, if so, what were the (a) recommendations and (b) findings of the presiding officer,
- (3) whether the Commissioner of Prisons approved and/or accepted the above recommendations, if not, what steps did the Commissioner take against each of the members in question?

B406E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

(1) Yes Inquiries in terms of the provisions of Regulation 77 of the Prisons Regulations promulgated in terms of section 94 of the Prisons Act, 1959 (Act 8 of 1959) were instituted against thirty-six (36) members of the King William's Town Prison in order to report to the Commis-

Hansard 12/3/91 set aside or alter such order or to issue another order which he may deem just The procedure to be followed by such a member is set out explicitly in Prisons Regulation number 78 In terms hereof a member who wishes to appeal to the Minister against an order of dismissal or demotion in rank or seniority must within fourteen (14) days of written notification to him of the issue of such order, lodge a notice of appeal in writing to his commanding officer for transmission to the Commissioner The member concerned must clearly and specifically set out the grounds on which the appeal is based and he may at the same time himself or through his legal representative submit written arguments or representations in support thereof The Commissioner must then submit the notice of appeal and written arguments or representations together with the record of the proceedings of the inquiry and the findings and reasons of the commissioned officer who conducted the inquiry to the Minister for consideration

Of the thirty six (36) members concerned six (6) have appealed against the decisions These applications for appeal are being dealt with at present

In conclusion I would like to mention that strikes by members of the Department of Correctional Services are seen in a very serious light, in as much that a Bill was passed by Parliament as recently as 1990 making provision for the summary dismissal of members who make themselves guilty of this practice

TUESDAY, 12/1

Awaiting-trial prisoners (253)
177 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of
Correctional Services

What was the average number of awaiting-trial
prisoners in custody on the last day of each
month in 1990? *Hansard*
13/3/91

B487E
The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SER-
VICES

The figures concerning awaiting-trial prisoners
who were incarcerated in South African pris-
ons on the last day of each month during 1990,
are as follows

31 January 1990 — 20 780
28 February 1990 — 19 766

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

519

WEDNESDAY,

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--------|
| 31 March 1990 | — | 19 057 |
| 30 April 1990 | — | 20 108 |
| 31 May 1990 | — | 19 496 |
| 30 June 1990 | — | 18 751 |
| 31 July 1990 | — | 19 538 |
| 31 August 1990 | — | 19 236 |
| 30 September 1990 | — | 18 952 |
| 31 October 1990 | — | 19 440 |
| 30 November 1990 | — | 19 027 |
| 31 December 1990 | — | 21 807 |

Hansard
13/3/91
(253)
Own Affairs

ANC ⁽²⁵³⁾ briefs Island inmates

ANC leaders Joe Slovo, Walter Sisulu and Alfred Nzo led a delegation to Robben Island yesterday to brief prisoners on their impending release.

The leaders returned to Table Bay Harbour at lunch time after three hours of talks with a group of prisoners chosen to represent 168 ANC inmates on the island.

The delegation included Western Cape ANC leaders Mr Bulelam Ngcuka and Mr Amos Lengisi and senior ANC law official Mr Matthew Phosa.

Sisulu said the delegation was dissatisfied that they were not allowed to address all 168 prisoners in one group.

Later in the day, Sisulu, Nzo and possibly Slovo were to meet Minister of Home Affairs Mr Gene Louw to discuss the ANC's objections to Census '91.

They were also to have discussions on violence in the townships with Minister of Law and Order Mr Adriaan Vlok and Minister of Defence General Magnus Malan.

Sowetan Correspondent

Robben Islanders briefed on possible release

Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — ANC leaders Joe Slovo, Walter Sisulu and Alfred Nzo led a delegation to Robben Island yesterday to brief the remaining 168 ANC prisoners on the island about their impending release

253
The three men returned to Table Bay harbour at lunchtime after three hours of talks with a group of prisoners chosen to represent the 168

Mr Sisulu said the delegation — which included western Cape ANC figures Bulelani Ngcuka and Amos Lengisi and

Star 14/3/91
senior officials from the ANC's law department in Johannesburg — "went to brief our comrades on the island on the situation outside".

Speaking on the quayside after returning to the mainland, Mr Sisulu said "They have concerns about their fate"

South 14/3 - 20/3/91

Prisoner programme

A POLITICAL Prisoner Release Programme has been jointly established by Lawyers for Human Rights and the National Association of Democratic Lawyers (Nadel).

It aims to assist prisoners convicted of political or politically-motivated offences who want to submit applications for release or indemnity in terms of the Pretoria Minute ~~(200)~~ (253)

People requiring assistance from the Programme may contact it at (012) 21-7767/21-7772, fax (012) 323-8358.

stew 14/3/91
**Thousands await
trial each month**

There were between 18 751 and 21 807 prisoners awaiting trial in custody on the last day of each month during 1990, Minister of Correctional Services Kobie Coetsee said in the House of Assembly yesterday.

In a reply to a question by Dave Dalling (DP Sandton), he said the highest figure was on December 31, when there were 21 807. The lowest was recorded on June 30

— Sapa **253**

PRISON OVERCROWDING

(253)

A TOTAL of 97 060 people were being held in South Africa's prisons at the end of last year — 13 074 more than their maximum capacity, Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee said in parliament. He said 22 081 of those being held were unsentenced prisoners.

W/Mail B/3-2/3/91

Pollsmoor Prison near Cape Town was the most overcrowded (122 percent), followed by Johannesburg Medium B (83 percent), Oudtshoorn (82,7 percent), Helderstroom Maximum (75 percent), Leeukoop Maximum (74,2 percent), Victor Verster Medium B (71,4 percent), Knysna (68,6 percent), Brandvlei Maximum (68,2 percent), Worcester (67 percent) and Barberton Medium A (66 percent).

Coetsee said 826 prisoners had escaped last year (726 sentenced and 100 unsentenced) of whom 393 had been recaptured by December 31 last year (353 sentenced and 40 awaiting trial).

'Officers beat prisoner to death'

By Jülienne du Toit

(253)

A prisoner at Bethal prison has claimed that white members of the Department of Correctional Services beat a black prisoner to death on March 1, but this has been denied by the department. *Star 19/3/91*

In a letter to The Star, he said prisoners were now living in fear and asked for his name not to be published as he was

afraid of ill treatment

"The prisoner wanted vengeance for the inmate's death. Even white senior officers participated," the letter said.

The Department of Correctional Services confirmed that an incident took place on March 1 but said the prisoner's allegation was devoid of all truth.

Spokesman Major Wena Greyling said a prisoner, Siphon Shangase, assaulted fellow-inmates with a deadly weapon. In

retaliation, other prisoners allegedly turned on him, she said.

When warders reached Shangase, the prisoner had been kicked and beaten up.

He was taken to the prison hospital, then to a public hospital where he died.

The exact reason for death will be established in a post-mortem, said Major Greyling.

Police were investigating, she added.

Certain prisoner: health

*12 Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Correctional Services *Hansard 19/3/71*

- (1) Whether he will make a statement on the state of health of a certain prisoner, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, if so, (a) what is this prisoner's name and (b) what are the relevant details, 253
- (2) whether the State intends releasing this prisoner on humanitarian or other grounds, if not, why not, if so, (a) when and (b) on what grounds? B491E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

- (1) No.

The privacy of prisoners as well as the professional independence of the medical practitioners who are responsible for their health care, is respected. It is therefore policy not to make details available or to comment on the state of health of individual prisoners. However, it can be confirmed that he has access to adequate medical and psychiatric treatment.

(a) and (b) Fall away

- (2) The person in question was declared a State President's patient by the Cape Provincial Division of the Supreme Court of South Africa and his status can only be changed if the provisions of Section 29 of the Mental Health Act, 1973 (Act No 18 of 1973) have been fully met.

(a) and (b) Fall away

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

(a) Local Authorities (b) Financial years

- Siyazenzela 1989/90
- Sivukile 1989/90
- Vukuzakhe 1989/90
- Wesselton 1988/89 and 1989/90

(2) Everything possible is being done to expedite the finalization of the accounts

Where the necessary expertise at local authorities lacks, attempts are made to obtain services from white local authorities or auditors/accounting firms while the regional offices of the Transvaal Provincial Administration also render assistance with the compiling of accounts in cases where competent financial personnel are available. Substantial assistance is also rendered by the auditors appointed by the Auditor-General

Natal

(1) Yes

(a) Local Authorities (b) Financial years

- Ningzima 1988/89 and 1989/90
- Sibongile 1989/90
- Sithembile 1989/90
- Brunville 1989/90
- Bhekuzulu 1989/90
- Bhongweni 1989/90

(2) Private auditors have been appointed to finalize the accounts

Orange Free State

(1) Yes

(a) Local Authorities (b) Financial years

- Kgotsoeng 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Ntswanatsatsi 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Ngwathe 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Namahadi 1986/87 - 1989/90
- 42nd Hill 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Kwakwatsi 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Mezimaholo 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Tumahole 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Rammulotsi 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Qulabotha 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Mokwallo 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Mamafubedu 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Kgubetswana 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Thembalhle 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Leratswana 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Ntha 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Zamani 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Matwangtiwang 1986/87 - 1989/90

(a) Local Authorities (b) Financial years

- Mafahaneng 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Ha-Raseber 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Makhgetla 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Maphodi 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Poding-Tse-Rolo 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Lephoi 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Ohoweng 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Mofutatshepe 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Rweleleyathunya 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Thapelang 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Qibing 1988/89 and 1989/90
- Tswanganang 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Malebogo 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Seritse 1988/89 - 1989/90
- Tikwana 1989/90
- Monyakeng 1988/89 and 1989/90
- Maywemaswen 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Ikgomotseng 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Makeleketa 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Mmahabane 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Tshepong 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Morojaneng 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Tahlehong 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Borra 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Mahlatseisa 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Hloholwane 1988/89 - 1989/90
- Moemaneng 1988/89 - 1989/90
- Botokaneng 1988/89 - 1989/90
- Ditlhake 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Ratanang 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Ipopeng 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Hunmeleng 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Megheleng 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Manyatseng 1988/89 - 1989/90
- Phomolong 1988/89 - 1989/90
- Meloding 1988/89 - 1989/90
- Masjang 1988/89 - 1989/90
- Matlakeng 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Phahameng 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Matwabeng 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Fateng-Tse-Niso 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Maute 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Bohlokong 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Thabong 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Kutiwanong 1987/88 - 1989/90
- Phurtona 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Tholong 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Petsana 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Ezenzelem 1986/87 - 1989/90
- Maokeng 1986/87 - 1989/90

(2) Chartered accountant firms have been appointed from 26 April 1990 to finalize

the above-mentioned Black local authorities' financial statements

Cape

(1) Yes

(a) Local Authorities (b) Financial years

- Bhongweni 1988/89 - 1989/90
- Nyarha 1988/89 - 1989/90
- Ikapa 1988/89 - 1989/90
- Lingelethu-West 1988/89 - 1989/90
- Kruispad 1989/90
- Bongolethu 1989/90
- Kayamandi 1989/90
- Lingelethu 1989/90
- Kwanonzwakazi 1989/90
- Dukathole 1989/90
- Nkululeko 1989/90
- Kat-Kat 1989/90
- Bhongweni 1989/90
- Lingelhle 1989/90
- Sinakho 1989/90
- Masibanbane 1989/90
- Rum 1989/90
- Umrzomhle 1989/90
- Luxolweni 1989/90
- Kwanonzamo 1989/90
- Kwazamukungu 1989/90
- Bontrug 1989/90
- Sonwabile 1989/90
- Kwannonzame 1989/90
- Khanyiso 1989/90
- Ibhayi 1989/90
- Mlungisi 1989/90
- Kwanojoli 1989/90
- Masake 1989/90
- Camakala 1989/90
- Dyoki 1989/90
- Nozizwe 1989/90
- Nkwenkwezi 1989/90
- Mzomomhle 1989/90
- Zakhele 1989/90
- Kareedouw 1989/90
- Kei Road 1989/90
- Jeffreysbaai 1989/90
- Galeshewe 1989/90
- Huhudi 1989/90

(2) Active recruitment of suitable personnel has been undertaken. Intensive training of the accounting personnel, treasurers and chief executive officers of the Black local authorities are being undertaken in co-operation with the National Training Board for Local Authority Bodies and

private auditing firms have been appointed to bring the accounting and financial statements of Black local authorities up to date and ready for auditing

Prisons: visits by judge/magistrate

126 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Correctional Services

- (1) (a) On how many occasions in 1990 was each prison visited by a (i) judge of the Supreme Court and (ii) magistrate and (b) on what dates did each of these visits take place at each such prison,
- (2) whether he took any action as a direct result of reports submitted to him pursuant to such visits, if so, what action on each occasion?

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

(1)(a)(i) and (ii)(b)

Judges and Magistrates visited prisons 87 and 605 times respectively during 1990. The particulars per prison which was visited are as follows

ALLANDALE PRISON COMMAND

- Allandale Prison (i) 90-10-15 (ii) 90-03-28
- 90-06-10
- 90-09-25
- 90-12-17

Hawegua Prison

- (i) 90-10-16 (ii) 90-03-07
- 90-06-14
- 90-09-13
- 90-12-10

Klein Drakenstein Prison

- (i) 90-10-16 (ii) 90-03-30
- 90-06-20
- 90-12-12

Malmesbury Prison

- (i) 90-10-17 (ii) 90-01-11
- 90-03-29
- 90-06-12
- 90-09-20
- 90-12-12

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House of
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Paarl Prison

| | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|
| (i) | 90-10-16 | (ii) | 90-03-30 |
| | | | 90-06-20 |
| | | | 90-09-18 |
| | | | 90-09-26 |

Riebeek West Prison

| | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|
| (i) | 90-10-18 | (ii) | 90-03-14 |
| | | | 90-06-20 |
| | | | 90-09-26 |
| | | | 90-11-21 |

Staart van Paardeberg Prison

| | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|
| (i) | 90-10-17 | (ii) | 90-03-27 |
| | | | 90-06-18 |
| | | | 90-12-12 |

Voorberg Prison

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-06-29 |
| | | | 90-09-26 |
| | | | 90-12-27 |

BARBERTON PRISON COMMAND

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-02-16 |
|-----|------|------|----------|

Barberton Medium B Prison

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-06-11 |
|-----|------|------|----------|

Barberton Maximum Prison

| | | | |
|-----|----------|------|------|
| (i) | 90-03-01 | (ii) | None |
| | 90-04-11 | | |

Barberton Town Prison

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-09-25 |
| | | | 90-12-31 |

Lydenburg Prison

| | | | |
|-----|----------|------|------|
| (i) | 90-05-10 | (ii) | None |
| | 90-06-05 | | |
| | 90-11-08 | | |

Nelspruit Prison

| | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|
| (i) | 90-04-25 | (ii) | 90-02-13 |
| | 90-09-24 | | 90-02-27 |
| | | | 90-03-12 |
| | | | 90-03-27 |
| | | | 90-04-09 |
| | | | 90-04-24 |
| | | | 90-06-04 |
| | | | 90-06-14 |
| | | | 90-06-18 |
| | | | 90-08-14 |
| | | | 90-08-22 |
| | | | 90-09-11 |

BAVIAANSPOORT PRISON COMMAND

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-02-14 |
|-----|------|------|----------|

Baviaanspoort Maximum Prison

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-02-14 |
| | | | 90-09-11 |
| | | | 90-12-12 |

Baviaanspoort Medium Prison

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-02-14 |
| | | | 90-09-11 |
| | | | 90-12-12 |

Louis Trichardt Prison

| | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|
| (i) | 90-06-04 | (ii) | 90-01-18 |
| | 90-08-15 | | 90-05-11 |
| | 90-11-19 | | 90-11-06 |

Nyistroom Prison

| | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|
| (i) | 90-07-25 | (ii) | 90-01-11 |
| | | | 90-04-10 |
| | | | 90-07-12 |
| | | | 90-10-23 |

Pietersburg Prison

| | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|
| (i) | 90-06-01 | (ii) | 90-01-12 |
| | 90-07-31 | | 90-03-28 |
| | 90-12-10 | | |

Tzaneen Prison

| | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|
| (i) | 90-12-05 | (ii) | 90-09-10 |
| | | | 90-12-06 |

BETHAL PRISON COMMAND

| | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|
| (i) | 90-05-10 | (ii) | 90-12-17 |
| | 90-06-14 | | |
| | 90-09-13 | | |

Bethal Prison

| | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|
| (i) | 90-05-10 | (ii) | 90-12-17 |
| | 90-06-14 | | |
| | 90-09-13 | | |

Bethal Female Prison

| | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|
| (i) | 90-05-10 | (ii) | 90-02-08 |
| | 90-06-14 | | 90-08-24 |
| | 90-09-13 | | 90-10-12 |
| | | | 90-12-13 |

Ermeelo Prison

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-03-16 |
| | | | 90-06-28 |

Geluk Prison

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-01-11 |
|-----|------|------|----------|

Standerton Medium B Prison

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-05-23 |
|-----|------|------|----------|

Volksrust Prison

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-03-29 |
| | | | 90-06-27 |
| | | | 90-09-26 |
| | | | 90-12-20 |

BLOEMFONTEIN PRISON COMMAND

| | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|
| (i) | 90-07-17 | (ii) | 90-03-28 |
| | | | 90-03-28 |
| | | | 90-07-04 |
| | | | 90-07-04 |

Bloemfontein Prison

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-03-12 |
| | | | 90-06-14 |
| | | | 90-09-18 |
| | | | 90-11-12 |

Boshof Prison

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-04-04 |
| | | | 90-06-21 |

Brandfort Prison

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-11-16 |
|-----|------|------|----------|

Edenburg Prison

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-03-07 |
| | | | 90-05-18 |
| | | | 90-09-20 |
| | | | 90-12-11 |

Fauresmith Prison

| | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|
| (i) | 90-09-12 | (ii) | 90-01-05 |
| | | | 90-04-23 |
| | | | 90-07-27 |
| | | | 90-10-26 |

Ficksburg Prison

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-03-27 |
| | | | 90-03-27 |
| | | | 90-07-03 |

Grootvlei Maximum Prison

| | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|
| (i) | 90-03-29 | (ii) | 90-10-15 |
| | | | 90-10-15 |

Grootvlei Medium Prison

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-03-27 |
| | | | 90-10-15 |

Hoopstad Prison

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-09-27 |
| | | | 90-12-21 |

Ladybrand Prison

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-01-03 |
| | | | 90-03-19 |
| | | | 90-06-21 |
| | | | 90-07-19 |
| | | | 90-10-07 |
| | | | 90-11-20 |

Wepener Prison

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-09-26 |
| | | | 90-12-19 |

BRANDVLEI PRISON COMMAND

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-03-30 |
| | | | 90-06-29 |
| | | | 90-09-28 |
| | | | 90-12-21 |

Brandvlei Maximum Prison

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-03-30 |
| | | | 90-06-29 |
| | | | 90-09-28 |
| | | | 90-12-21 |

Brandvlei Medium Prison

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-07-17 |
| | | | 90-07-25 |
| | | | 90-08-06 |
| | | | 90-08-15 |
| | | | 90-08-23 |

Caledon Prison

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-07-05 |
| | | | 90-07-10 |
| | | | 90-11-16 |

Helderstroom Medium Prison

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-07-05 |
| | | | 90-07-10 |
| | | | 90-11-16 |

Helderstroom Maximum Prison

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-07-05 |
| | | | 90-07-12 |
| | | | 90-07-19 |
| | | | 90-07-26 |
| | | | 90-08-02 |
| | | | 90-08-09 |
| | | | 90-08-16 |
| | | | 90-11-22 |
| | | | 90-08-23 |
| | | | 90-12-04 |
| | | | 90-08-30 |
| | | | 90-09-06 |
| | | | 90-09-13 |
| | | | 90-09-20 |
| | | | 90-09-27 |
| | | | 90-10-04 |

DURBAN PRISON COMMAND

| | | | |
|-----|----------|------|----------|
| (i) | 90-01-08 | (ii) | 90-10-11 |
| | 90-01-30 | | 90-10-18 |
| | | | 90-10-28 |
| | | | 90-11-01 |
| | | | 90-11-03 |
| | | | 90-11-15 |
| | | | 90-11-28 |
| | | | 90-12-04 |
| | | | 90-12-06 |
| | | | 90-12-13 |
| | | | 90-12-20 |
| | | | 90-12-27 |

Durban Medium B Prison

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|----------|
| (i) | None | (ii) | 90-10-11 |
|-----|------|------|----------|

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Stanger Prison
(i) 90-12-14 (ii) 90-02-19
90-05-29
90-08-31
90-11-29

George Male Prison
(i) 90-11-01 (ii) 90-03-23
90-06-22
90-09-05
90-11-01

Verulam Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-01-10 90-07-10
90-02-02 90-08-08
90-02-22 90-09-06
90-03-27 90-10-16
90-03-28 90-11-06
90-04-25 90-12-20

George Female Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-03-23
90-06-22
90-09-25

EAST LONDON PRISON COMMAND
East London Medium A Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-01-26 90-09-14
90-04-19 90-09-28
90-05-02 90-10-11
90-05-17 90-10-12
90-05-17 90-11-29
90-05-30 90-12-13
90-08-14 90-12-27

Knysna Prison
(i) 90-11-06 (ii) 90-01-10 90-09-07
90-01-31 90-09-10
90-02-09 90-10-03
90-03-21 90-11-23
90-03-28 90-12-12

East London Medium B Prison
(i) 90-09-14 (ii) 90-01-26 90-09-14
90-05-17 90-10-11
90-10-11

Mossel Bay Prison
(i) 90-11-02 (ii) 90-01-03 90-09-07
90-04-02 90-10-03
90-05-02 90-11-23
90-07-04 90-12-12

East London Female Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-01-26 90-09-14
90-05-17 90-10-11
90-10-11

Ladismith Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-03-15 90-09-07
90-06-14 90-10-03
90-09-18 90-11-23

Fort Beaufort Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-03-05 90-09-14
90-06-20 90-10-11
90-09-20 90-11-29

Oudshoorn Prison
(i) 90-08-15 (ii) 90-06-21 90-09-07
90-10-25 90-08-21 90-11-23

King Williamstown Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-07-31 90-09-14
90-12-04

Prince Albert Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-03-13 90-09-07
90-05-22 90-10-03
90-08-07 90-11-23

Queenstown Prison
(i) 90-09-25 (ii) 90-05-16 90-09-14
90-09-06 90-10-03
90-09-25 90-11-06

Unondale Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-03-29 90-09-07
90-07-10 90-10-03
90-09-18 90-11-23

Stutterheim Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-12-20

Victoria West Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-09-20

GEORGE PRISON COMMAND
Beaufort West Prison
(i) 90-04-11 (ii) 90-01-31 90-09-14
90-03-30 90-11-06
90-04-11

GLENCOE PRISON COMMAND
Dundee Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-03-27 90-09-07
90-11-01

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Empangeni Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-03-29 90-09-14
90-06-29 90-11-06

GOEDEMOED PRISON COMMAND
Barkley East Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-09-25 90-12-11

Eshowe Prison
(i) 90-09-20 (ii) 90-05-15 90-09-14
90-08-14 90-11-06
90-08-27 90-11-06
90-09-19 90-11-06

Bethulie Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-06-21

Glencoe Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-06-26 90-09-14
90-09-28 90-11-06
90-09-28 90-11-06
90-12-18

Burgersdorp Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-03-02 90-12-11

Ladismith Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-09-26 90-12-11

Dordrecht Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-03-19 90-12-12
90-09-28 90-12-13

Melmoth Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-03-30 90-09-14
90-06-27 90-11-06
90-10-01

Goedemoed Medium A Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-09-27

Mtunzini Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-02-21

Middelburg Female Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-09-13

Newcastle Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-03-27 90-09-14
90-09-25

Middelburg Male Prison
(i) 90-06-27 (ii) 90-03-22 90-09-14
90-06-14 90-11-06
90-09-13 90-12-11

Utrecht Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-03-27 90-09-14
90-06-15 90-11-06
90-08-30 90-11-06
90-11-26 90-12-11
90-12-04

Zastron Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-03-21 90-09-14
90-06-22 90-11-06
90-08-23 90-11-06
90-09-05 90-12-11
90-12-28

Vryheid Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-03-20 90-09-14
90-06-19 90-11-06
90-09-28 90-12-11
90-12-05

Waterval Medium A Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-03-29 90-09-14
90-06-15 90-11-06
90-12-04

GROENPUNT PRISON COMMAND
Groenpunt Maximum Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-09-27

Waterval Medium B Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-03-29 90-09-14
90-06-15 90-11-06
90-12-04

Groenpunt Medium Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-09-27

Vereniging Male Prison
(i) 90-08-28 (ii) 90-08-16 90-11-06
90-08-29

Sasolburg Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-09-27

JOHANNESBURG PRISON COMMAND

Johannesburg Medium A Prison
(i) None (ii) 90-01-16

90-01-31

90-02-13

90-06-06

90-06-14

90-06-19

90-06-20

90-06-21

90-10-09

Johannesburg Medium B Prison

(i) 90-11-06 (ii) 90-01-24

90-06-14

90-10-09

Johannesburg Medium C Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-01-24

90-06-14

90-10-09

Johannesburg Female Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-01-24

90-06-14

90-10-09

90-11-10

Krugerdsorp Male Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-04-09

90-06-28

90-09-28

KIMBERLEY PRISON COMMAND

Barkley West Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-01-05

90-08-17

90-12-14

Colesberg Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-02-15

90-06-14

90-09-11

90-12-06

De Aar Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-06-05

90-09-19

Douglas Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-06-13

90-09-27

90-12-31

Hopetown Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-07-05

90-09-27

90-12-31

Kimberley Male Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-04-26

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

JOHANNESBURG PRISON COMMAND

Kroonstad Medium A Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-08-31

90-09-01

Kroonstad Medium B Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-12-18

Kroonstad Female Prison

(i) 90-05-02 (ii) None

Lindley Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-06-25

90-12-10

Odendaalsrus Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-03-27

90-06-21

90-06-21

90-09-19

90-12-12

90-12-12

Parys Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-06-21

90-12-18

Senekal Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-03-01

Ventersburg Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-03-30

90-06-19

90-12-07

Virginia Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-04-20

90-06-11

90-10-09

MODDERBEE PRISON COMMAND

Heidelberg Prison

(i) 90-05-21 (ii) 90-01-16

90-08-16

90-11-26

90-11-27

Modderbee Prison

(i) 90-05-22 (ii) 90-03-20

90-09-18

90-10-02

90-12-13

Nigel Prison

(i) 90-09-18 (ii) 90-11-21

90-10-23

PIETERMARTITZBURG PRISON COM-

MAND

Bergville Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-03-14

90-06-27

90-09-23

90-12-19

KIMBERLEY PRISON COMMAND

Bulwer Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-04-26

Estcourt Prison

(i) 90-09-12 (ii) 90-02-06

90-11-27

90-05-06

90-06-26

Greytown Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-03-22

90-06-27

90-09-29

90-12-19

Ixopo Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-03-26

90-06-15

90-09-18

90-12-10

Kokstad Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-06-08

90-06-08

90-08-31

Kranskop Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-10-17

Matabele prison

(i) None (ii) 90-04-01

90-10-09

90-12-30

New Hanover Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-03-22

90-04-20

90-09-04

Pietermaritzburg Medium A Prison

(i) 90-08-20 (ii) 90-08-31

90-11-01

90-11-01

Pietermaritzburg Female Prison

(i) 90-08-23 (ii) 90-01-12

90-11-01

90-04-11

Seventeen Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-11-27

Umtzinto Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-12-03

POLLSMOOR PRISON COMMAND

Pollsmoor Maximum Prison

(i) None (ii) 90-01-03

90-03-15

90-05-17

90-08-03

90-11-23

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Polismoor Medium A Prison (i) None (ii) 90-01-25 90-01-25 90-01-25 90-02-01 | Losperfontein Prison (i) None (ii) 90-06-04 90-09-12 90-12-14 | |
| Polismoor Medium B Prison (i) 90-04-17 (ii) None | Pretoria Local Prison (i) None (ii) 90-01-28 90-07-12 90-11-28 | |
| PORT ELIZABETH PRISON COMMAND | | |
| Cradock Prison (i) None (ii) 90-02-20 90-05-14 90-06-25 90-06-26 | Pretoria Maximum Prison (i) 90-02-20 (ii) None | |
| Graaff-Reinet Prison (i) None (ii) 90-06-29 | Pretoria Central Prison (i) None (ii) 90-07-12 90-11-28 | |
| Grahamstown Prison (i) None (ii) 90-05-18 90-11-12 | Pretoria Security Prison (i) None (ii) 90-06-13 90-06-27 90-10-03 90-11-28 | |
| Jansenville Prison (i) None (ii) 90-01-29 90-04-27 90-10-29 | Pretoria Female Prison (i) 90-11-01 (ii) 90-01-03 90-01-25 90-07-12 90-11-28 | |
| Genl J C Steyn Prison (i) None (ii) 90-03-29 90-12-31 | Walvis Bay Prison (i) 90-10-04 (ii) 90-03-08 90-06-27 90-09-26 90-12-14 | |
| Port Elizabeth Male Prison (i) None (ii) 90-05-22 90-09-26 | ROBBEN ISLAND PRISON COMMAND | |
| Port Elizabeth Female Prison (i) None (ii) 90-05-22 90-09-26 | Robben Island Maximum Prison (i) 90-03-02 (ii) 90-03-22 90-06-21 90-11-29 | |
| Somerset East Prison (i) None (ii) 90-04-09 90-07-05 | Robben Island Medium Prison (i) None (ii) 90-01-02 90-03-22 90-06-21 90-09-27 90-11-29 | |
| St Albans Maximum Prison (i) 90-03-30 (ii) 90-05-29 90-09-27 90-09-27 | St Albans Medium A Prison (i) None (ii) 90-09-28 | |
| St Albans Medium B Prison (i) None (ii) 90-05-29 90-09-27 90-09-27 | St Albans Medium B Prison (i) None (ii) 90-05-29 90-09-27 90-09-27 | |
| PRETORIA PRISON COMMAND | | |
| Brits Prison (i) None (ii) 90-06-04 90-09-12 90-12-14 | Bien Donne Prison (i) None (ii) 90-03-27 90-06-18 90-09-26 90-12-12 | |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Stellenbosch Prison (i) None (ii) 90-05-29 90-08-14 90-08-30 90-12-03 | Robertson Prison (i) None (ii) 90-05-04 90-07-19 90-11-07 | |
| Victor Verster Maximum Prison (i) None (ii) 90-12-19 | Springbok Prison (i) None (ii) 90-06-29 90-10-01 90-12-18 | |
| Victor Verster Medium A Prison (i) None (ii) 90-12-19 | Swellendam Prison (i) 90-10-11 (ii) 90-03-07 90-04-24 90-05-30 90-07-10 | |
| Victor Verster Medium B Prison (i) None (ii) 90-06-29 90-12-19 | Van Rhynsdorp Prison (i) 90-04-18 (ii) 90-03-09 90-04-18 90-07-19 | |
| WITBANK PRISON COMMAND | | |
| Belfast Prison (i) None (ii) 90-03-28 90-06-26 90-09-20 90-12-27 | Warmbokveld Prison (i) 90-08-08 (ii) 90-03-02 90-06-08 90-09-27 90-11-12 90-11-21 | |
| Carolina Prison (i) None (ii) 90-03-16 90-09-18 90-12-07 | Worcester Male Prison (i) None (ii) 90-06-13 90-09-25 90-12-28 | |
| Middelburg Prison (i) 90-05-16 (ii) 90-02-02 90-03-22 90-05-10 90-08-22 90-11-27 | Worcester Female Prison (i) None (ii) 90-06-18 90-06-18 90-06-21 90-07-11 90-12-27 | |
| Witbank Prison (i) 90-05-22 (ii) 90-02-14 90-04-18 90-05-10 90-05-22 | ZONDERWATER PRISON COMMAND | |
| Zonderwater Medium Prison (i) None (ii) 90-01-26 90-04-04 90-04-25 90-11-01 | | |
| Buffeljagrivier Prison (i) 90-07-25 (ii) 90-05-03 | Zonderwater Open Prison (i) None (ii) 90-04-25 90-11-01 | |
| Calvinia Prison (i) None (ii) 90-04-02 90-06-26 90-10-01 | Zonderwater Open Prison (i) None (ii) 90-04-25 90-11-01 | |
| Dwaarsrivier Prison (i) 90-08-10 (ii) 90-03-13 90-06-13 90-10-02 90-12-05 | (2) Yes Reports by judges in terms of the stipulations of Prisons Regulation 104(2)(a) are referred to the Commissioner of Correctional Services for the necessary attention. The Commissioner reports to the Minister on a continuous basis on the | |
| Obiqua Prison (i) 90-10-19 (ii) 90-03-01 90-05-18 90-12-27 | | |

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TUESDAY, 19 N

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steps which have been taken with regard to the reports. In appropriate instances a reportback is made to a judge concerned

After a visit a magistrate reports his findings to the Commissioner in terms of Prisons Regulation 104(2)(b). The findings are recorded in the official complaints and requests register together with an indication of the manner in which they were dealt with. The head of the prison and the commanding officer control on a continuous basis that the findings have been dealt with appropriately. Due to the quantity of visits in question as well as the fact that the reports/findings deal with a wide variety of subjects, the information requested cannot be supplied within the scope of this reply. However, should the Honourable Member require the particulars with regard to a specific report/finding, I will consider providing the information to him on a personal basis.

Handwritten: 19/3/91
 Local Authorities Act, 1982 (Act 102 of 1982) is considered when a quorum for decision-making no longer exists at a local authority, in order to ensure the continued administration and rendering of municipal services in Black local authority areas

- (2) (a) Presently nil
- (b) Falls away

Reporting Organizations and Persons: report

*8 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Justice

Whether the Registrar of Reporting Organizations and Persons has submitted a report in terms of section 7(1) of the Disclosure of Foreign Funding Act, No 26 of 1989, if not, (a) why not and (b) when is it anticipated that the report will be (i) completed and (ii) tabled?

B4844E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Yes,

(a) and (b)(i) fall away

(b)(ii) The report will be tabled in Parliament shortly

Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 180C (3) of the Standing Rules of Parliament

Pollsmoor Prison: differences in facilities

*9 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Correctional Services *253*

Whether there were any differences in the (a) accommodation, (b) recreational facilities and/or (c) remuneration offered to White and Coloured warders at Pollsmoor Prison as at 31 December 1990, if so, (i) what differences in each case and (ii) why?

B485E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

(a) I refer the Honourable Member to my reply in the House of Assembly to question no 18 of 20 February 1990 (Hansard col 78 and 79) in which I reacted to a similar question from him. With regard to part (a) of the Honourable Member's latest question, part (a) of my reply to question no 18 of 20 February 1990 still

(c) No *Handwritten:* 19/3/91 *253*

All disparity in respect of remuneration has already been eliminated with effect from 1 March 1988. There is thus no difference in the remuneration in respect of the mentioned population groups

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

*10 Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Whether the Government has taken a decision to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, if not, why not, if so, when does it intend to sign the treaty?

B489E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The South African Government stated publicly in September 1990 that it was prepared to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty in the context of an equal commitment by other states in the Southern African region

The South African Government together with a number of other Governments of Southern Africa supports the idea of a nuclear weapons-free zone in the Southern Africa region. The Government would also like to see this concept extended to the entire continent of Africa as a nuclear weapons-free zone and in this regard has noted with interest the support for this idea by a number of African states at the Fourth Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in Geneva during August-September 1990

In the meantime the South African Government has agreed to conclude a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency in respect of the country's nuclear facilities as a demonstration of the Government's commitment to adherence to non-proliferation responsibilities and objectives

Two persons: applications for indemnity

*11 Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Justice

(1) Whether he has received any applications for indemnity by two persons, whose names have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, if so, (a) what are the names of the

persons concerned and (b) what was the outcome of these applications,

(2) whether the Government has any intention of entering into an agreement with the ANC in regard to the release of either of these two persons? *Handwritten:* B490E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE. 19/3/91

- (1) (a) The persons concerned have applied for release
- (b) The applications are currently being prepared for consideration

(2) No

Certain prisoner: health

*12 Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Correctional Services *Handwritten:* 19/3/91 *253*

(1) Whether he will make a statement on the state of health of a certain prisoner, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, if so, (a) what is this prisoner's name and (b) what are the relevant details,

(2) whether the State intends releasing this prisoner on humanitarian or other grounds, if not, why not, if so, (a) when and (b) on what grounds? B491E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

(1) No.

The privacy of prisoners as well as the professional independence of the medical practitioners who are responsible for their health care, is respected. It is therefore policy not to make details available or to comment on the state of health of individual prisoners. However, it can be confirmed that he has access to adequate medical and psychiatric treatment

(a) and (b) Fall away

(2) The person in question was declared a State President's patient by the Cape Provincial Division of the Supreme Court of South Africa and his status can only be changed if the provisions of Section 29 of the Mental Health Act, 1973 (Act No 18 of 1973) have been fully met

(a) and (b) Fall away

Major amnesty for political prisoners and Yengeni accused

Piet 'Skiet' Rudolph goes free

By Peter Fabricius
Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Right-wing bomber "Piet Skiet" Rudolph, the six left-wing "Yengeni" accused and 33 others are being released as part of a major amnesty and indemnity of political prisoners announced last night.

It will include the first grant of indemnity for crimes of political violence since the Government and the ANC agreed to this last August.

Mr Rudolph and the Yengeni six were on trial for a string of bomb explosions. Kobie Coetsee, Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, said in a statement released in Cape Town yesterday that President de Klerk had decided on the amnesty and indemnities as part of the process of implementing the Pretoria Minute agreed to between the Government and the ANC last August.

Two more prisoners serving life sentences, V J Nene and M M Meyrwa, have been granted special amnesty. Mr Rudolph was "in the process of being released." He had been due to stand trial for detonating explosives at five different places.

They were being tried in Cape Town for detonating a car bomb and other explosives in Cape Town during July 1987 and other alleged offences.

Mr Coetsee pointed out that although the charges against Mr Rudolph and the Yengeni accused were serious and government and private property had been damaged "to serious bodily injuries were sustained by any person".

Mr Coetsee referred to Mr de Klerk's speech in Parliament on June 7 last year in which he called on the country to forget the injustices of the past and "create a new future for our children".



Piet "Skiet" Rudolph

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
SALDRU
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Stef 19/3/91.

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Special

It is understood the 40 political prisoners, held on Robben Island and Pretoria, will be released from this morning.

Mr Rudolph was also a founder of the Movement for the Liberation and Preservation of White South Africa.

He began his first hunger strike on September 21 and was said to be "willing to die". His strike ended on September 25.

He added that the latest batch of releases would bring to 310 the total number of convicted political prisoners released so far.

Mr Coetsee said Mr Rudolph was to stand trial on charges relating to the following offences:

● To Page 3

Piet 'Skiet' Rudolph, Yengeni accused go free

From Page 1

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poort on June 22 last year and at the offices of the newspaper Beeld on September 22 last year.

Mr Rudolph, a former Pretoria city councillor and deputy leader of the Boerestaat Party, was known as the "Boere Pimpernel" for the manner in which he evaded a police net for several months last year.

A reward of R50 000 for his arrest was posted by police — an action which immediately elevated him to a place in

He began his first hunger strike on September 21 and was said to be "willing to die". His strike ended on September 25.

S F Mkhonta, P M Williams, S G L Malamba, R M Dumisa, F K Morule, S N Maphumulo, K D Mkhwanubi, D Highwane, W S Makbathum, M B Mokgosi, P Ngungwana, Z E Mazantsana, G P Ramahlo, A Pule, S G Sizani, Z M Dikiza, E S Mahlabo, G M Mabengeza, P M Sekopo, Z A Molotsi, O B Ngubelani, S M Diamo, N S Seboge, J Ngqondela, E B V Mthombeni, M A Diamo, J M Molefe, T P Ngcobo and J T Maja.

Mr Rudolph initially asked for amnesty in August last year when he called on the "Boers" to agree to his decision and to end all aggressive illegal action.

Mr Rudolph was also a founder of the Movement for the Liberation and Preservation of White South Africa.

He was arrested on September 28 by police in Pretoria and was detained in terms of Section 29 of the Internal Security Act.

Mr Coetsee named the 31 prisoners who had been granted amnesty through a special remission of sentence of up to nearly seven years.

They are C G Niehaus,

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Mabengeza among 31 given amnesty

WESTERN Cape political prisoner Gladwin Mabengeza was among 31 prisoners indemnified and released on Thursday.

Mabengeza was sentenced to eight years in 1987 with 12 others on charges of terrorism.

Veteran Eastern Cape ANC member Mr James Ngqondela, 61, was also released. South 21/3-27/3/91

In 1984, Ngqondela was sentenced to 13 years for treason and sent to Robben Island for his third term of imprisonment there.

The first lifers to be released in terms of the indemnity procedure, MM Meyiwa and VJ Nene, were also released on Thursday. Another Eastern Cape prisoner released was Phumlani Ngqungwana, who was sentenced to eight years for terrorism. His brother Lizo is still on the island, serving a life sentence.

The other released were Frans Morule, JD Hlongwane, Z Mazantsana, D Mkhawumbi, Enoch Mihombeni, W Makhathini, JM Molefe, Gibson Sizane, HD Dpitse, Z Dikiza, Peter Sekopo, Zakes Molotsi, TP Ngcobo, P Maja, MA Dlomo, Gibson Ramahlo, Oliver Nqubela, SG Malamba, RM Dumisa, SN Maphumulo, MB Mokgosi, Abraham Pule, ES Mahlobo, SM Dlomo, NS Seboge and T Mkonta.

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — The State yesterday asked for the death sentence to be imposed on convicted AWB killer Eugene Marais, who murdered seven blacks in an attack on a passenger bus last year.

During argument on sentence in the Supreme Court, Durban, the State said the killings were "so shocking that society would demand nothing less than the death sentence"

Marais, 27, and two other AWB members took part in the attack on October 9 last year in an act of revenge

State seeks death for AWB killer

after a group of black youths and a man stabbed eight whites — one of them fatally — in Durban.

Marais has told the court that he and the others believed this to be the beginning of the "total onslaught" *blom 22/3/91*

Evidence has been heard that Marais' interest in a right-wing religious sect, the Verbondsvolk, influenced him into believing that blacks were animals

Counsel for the defence asked the court to take into account Marais' religious beliefs, political ideology and the fact that he had been indoctrinated over a long period of time.

Mr Justice Hugo commented that there were people who had very strong political ideologies, but who did not act in the way the accused had

The judge adjourned the trial until April 5.

Welcome laid on for 31 freed men

CAPE TOWN — The largest group of political prisoners yet to be released from Robben Island were feted at a heroes' welcome by the ANC and SACP yesterday

The group of 31 included two "lifers", Mathews Meyiwa, 67, of Durban and John Nene, 48, of nearby Hammersdale, who said they were happy to return to their strife-torn communities to put their own weight behind efforts to resolve the problems there

The group was welcomed at Cowley House in Woodstock where ANC information head Pallo Jordan introduced members at a media conference

Jordan castigated government for dragging its feet on the release of political prisoners and said only 15% of prisoners eligible for release had been freed.

Meyiwa read a statement on behalf of the group which said he and his comrades had been waiting for this day for 13 months

Fifteen of those who were still on the Island had not filled in applications for indemnity

Jordan said close scrutiny of all earlier releases, excluding the handful of lifers and long-term prisoners in the present group, would show that government was in fact not giving political prisoners amnesty such as Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and others had received

"What the government has been doing is to give political prisoners remission of sentence"

The group was part of 40 prisoners to be released countrywide They were all members of the ANC's paramilitary wing — Sapa



IGI INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Reg No. 54/02813/06

PREFERENTIAL DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice is hereby given that a preferential dividend of 15 cents per share for the 6 months ended 31 March 1991 in respect of the 10% compulsorily convertible cumulative preference shares has been declared. This dividend will be payable on or about 15 April 1991 to those shareholders registered at the close of business on 5 April 1991.

Non-resident Shareholders tax of 15% will be deducted where applicable.

For the purpose of determining those members entitled to receive this dividend, the Transfer Register and Register of Members will be closed from 8 April to 12 April 1991, both dates inclusive

By order of the board

NEJ GOODWIN CA (SA)
Secretary.

Johannesburg
22 March 1991

Transfer Secretaries:
Mercantile Registrars Limited
94 President Street,
Johannesburg 2001

Registered Office
9th Floor IGI House
162 Anderson Street
Johannesburg 2001

DIRECTORS
IMA Lewis (Chairman)
PS Denniss * (Managing Director) RC Andrews (Deputy Managing Director)
L Nathan G Nestadt L Carrol PD Cochrane JH Hosken KB Mackenzie
JK Wasserfall

* (Motswana)

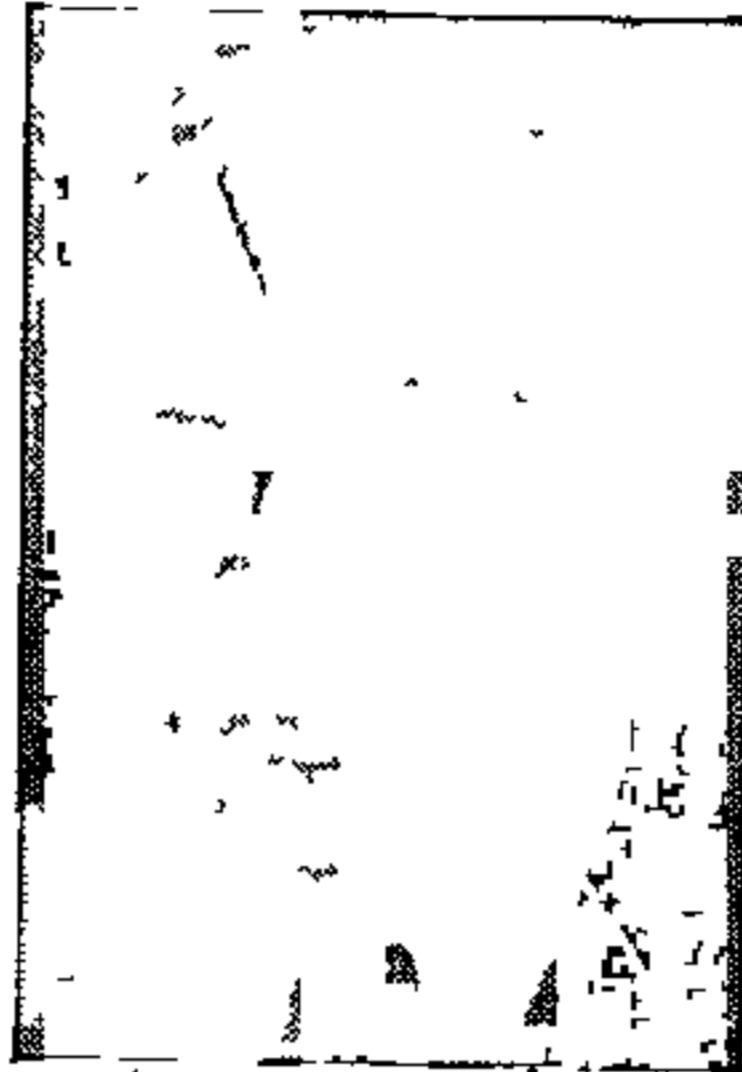
Prisoners hold key to sanctions

By David Braun
Star Bureau (253)

WASHINGTON — The US would use its own standard worldwide definition of a political prisoner when it came to deciding whether South Africa had released all political prisoners, says Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Hank Cohen.

"The standard definition of political prisoners, which the US government uses consistently in all parts of the world, will be used," he said at a conference with African journalists in Washington this week.

Mr Cohen was discussing the 1986 Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act (CAAA) which stipulates that sanctions imposed by the US against



Hank Cohen US will decide on sanctions

South Africa may not be lifted until five criteria have been met.

South Africa had already met three of the criteria.

The remaining two were the repeal of the Group Areas Act and the Population Registration Act, and the release of all political prisoners.

He said the CAAA provided for the amending or suspension of some

sanctions if four out of the five criteria had been met, but the release of political prisoners had to be among them.

The CAAA said the discriminatory legislation should not be replaced by other legislation or measures which would have the same effect.

The US would examine the repeal of the Group Areas Act and the Population Registration Act in due course, he said.

Mr Cohen said the timing of meeting the CAAA requirements was up to the South African Government.

Once the criteria had been met, the US administration would begin consulting with the Congress on the question of modifying or suspending sanctions.

Congress would be consulted with a view to implementing the law, he added.

Prisoners hold key to sanctions

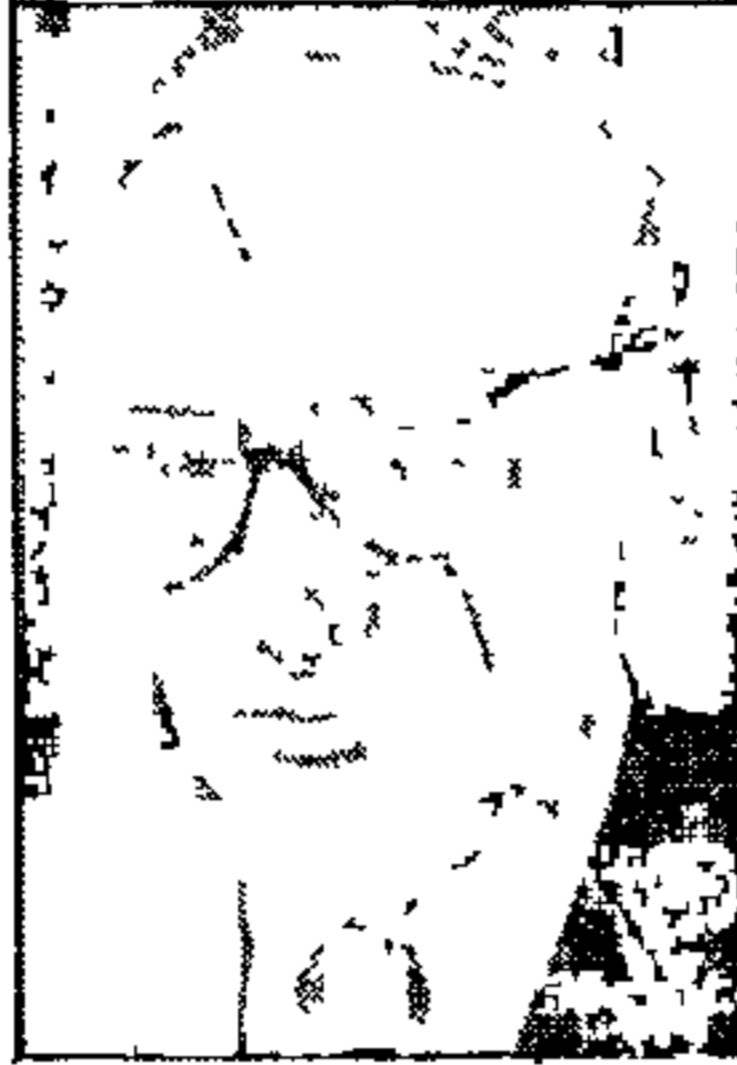
By David Braun
Star Bureau

Star 22/3/91
253

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Vula 9 and many others indemnified

THE nine Operation Vula accused are going free and the bulk of all political activists have been indemnified in a major step towards meeting the Government's commitments under the Groote Schuur and Pretoria Minutes.

Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee announced yesterday that 1 819 ANC and Umkhonto we Sizwe exiles who had done military training had been indemnified.

Mr Coetsee also tried to balance concessions to the Left with concessions to the Right. Six allies of Orde Boerevolk leader Piet "Skiet" Rudolph are also being set free.

Leading SACP activist Mac Maharaj, veteran hardline Natal activist Billy Nair and Siphwe Nyanda — the "Comrade Joe" of the Operation Vula tapes whom police

PETER FABRICIUS Political Correspondent

mistook for SACP leader Joe Slovo — are among the nine accused in the Vula trial who were indemnified.

Operation Vula, which was an alleged ANC/SACP plot to overthrow the Government by insurrection if negotiations failed, was cracked by the police when they searched what they said to be a wealth of documents on a computer.

Mr Coetsee also announced that Johannes Jurgens Dempers, the young rightwinger sentenced to three years prison last year for trying to spring an accomplice of Mr Rudolph from Pretoria Central Police Station — is to be released too.

● TO PAGE 2.

Releases

● FROM PAGE 1.

Another five rightwingers currently charged in the so-called "Tubbs trial" in Rustenburg Regional Court, for aiding and abetting Mr Rudolph after his escape, have also been indemnified.

Mr Coetsee reaffirmed the Government's commitment to the agreements reached in the Groote Schuur and Pretoria Minutes.

He noted that the April 30 date agreed on in the Pretoria Minute was the target for the completion of the process of indemnification and not for the return of an "unspecified number of so-called exiles".

Giving a comprehensive overview of progress made in indemnification and release of political prisoners Mr Coetsee said:

- 5 414 people had applied for indemnity or release — after 20 000 application forms were given to the ANC during August and September 1990

- 4 584 were applications for indemnity and 830 for release from prison

- Of these, 2 974 had been indemnified in December 18 for leaving the country unlawfully.

- 1 819 people were indemnified in yesterday's Government Gazette for receiving military training. They had "subscribed to the principles of peaceful solutions and development"

- 310 political prisoners had been released.

- Earlier this week indemnity had been granted to another 12 people who did not fall into any of the existing indemnity categories. They included Mr Rudolph and the Yengeni accused.

- 42 applications were being processed by the Indemnity Committee of Judges M T Steyn, R N Leon and R A Solomon. Justice officials pointed out that these were more serious cases not clearly covered by the general guidelines as to what

constituted a political offence.

- The remaining cases did not fit into the existing categories. Some concerned serious offences

Justice officials pointed out that the number of people who had been indemnified was greater than the number who had applied for indemnity because some people had applied for indemnity for more than one offence.

Mr Coetsee added that an unknown number of people had been automatically indemnified on December 18 last year for offences concerning membership of previously unlawful organisations

'Tubbs trial'

Mr Coetsee gave the names of the Operation Vula accused who had now been indemnified as:

Siphwe Nyanda, Rayman Lalla, Catherine Dipuo Mvelase, Priscilla Susana Thabalala, Dipak Patel, Pravin Jamnadas Gordhan, Anesh Munessar Sankar, Sathyandranath Ragananan "Mac" Maharaj and Billy Nair

The names of the rightwingers in the "Tubbs trial" are Rudolph Christiaan Tubbs, Elsie Johanna Tubbs, Allen Marnewick, Izak Wybrand Venter and Barend Bartholomeus Burger.

Mr Coetsee said Mr Dempers would be released as soon as the administrative process had been completed.

Mr Dempers walked into the Pretoria Central Police Station on April 24 last year and, posing as a National Intelligence Service agent, took Gene Taylor out of custody

He was on the pavement outside the police station before police realised something was wrong and arrested him.

Mr Taylor was being held in connection with the theft of arms and ammunition from the SA Air Force's Pretoria headquarters, which Mr Rudolph allegedly masterminded

Spy in amnesty bid

By JEREMY BROOKS London

FRIENDS and family of South African superspy Dieter Gerhardt are praying for his early release after nearly nine years in jail.

Their hopes rose this week with the release on Wednesday of another group of 40 political prisoners, including right-winger Piet Skiet Rudolph and six terrorism trialists.

Former Simonstown commander Gerhardt, 56, gave sensitive South African military secrets to his Moscow controllers for decades. Now he has given affidavits to the police arguing for a political amnesty, his wife, Ruth, revealed this week.

Mrs Gerhardt also served eight years in prison for spying and was released last

year. She believes she and her husband will be united at her home in Basle, Switzerland, within a few months.

"The tension of not knowing what is going to happen is tough on Dieter, but his hopes are high and his letters are cheerful and optimistic," she said.

"We had hoped he would be out for our son Gregory's birthday this month, but that will obviously not happen."

Mrs Gerhardt said both she and her husband were convicted of high treason — and not of breaking the Official Secrets Act.

"There's no doubt that Dieter should be treated as a political prisoner."

She added that there was a strong chance the family might decide to return and settle in South Africa.

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S/Times 29/3/71

The bomber who hopes for peace and reconciliation

St Louis - 24 3191

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CARL NIEHAUS gives every appearance of being a gentle man. His handshake is warm. His eyes are a soft blue. He is halfway through his masters degree in theology.

Yet eight years ago, this was the man who — aged 23 — was jailed for 15 years for treason. He had planted a pamphlet bomb in Johannesburg's Carlton Centre outside the army recruitment office. It was defused before it caused any damage.

He had photographed the Johannesburg municipal gas works with the intention of sending the pictures to Botswana. He was involved in abortive plots to bomb the SABC and his alma mater, the Rand Afrikaans University.

His partner and then live-in girlfriend Johanna "Jansie" Lourens, 23, was imprisoned for four years for her ANC sympathies. When he was sentenced in November 1983, Niehaus's defence

attorney listed the acts of treason committed by the former NGK of Africa church deacon.

Niehaus had produced ANC pamphlets; he had tried to recruit members to the ANC and Ukhoza we Sizwe; and he had purported to establish the Afrikaans-Speaking Socialist Alliance.

Today, Niehaus is a man of his time. Released from Pretoria Central Prison on Tuesday, along with Piet "Skeet" Rudolph and other political prisoners on unconditional indemnity, he speaks of peace, love and reconciliation. His political pronouncements could be those of President FW de Klerk.

"I am very glad that a considerable number of whites are changing. That gives me hope for the future.

"The actions that I have taken were the right actions at the time. There was no democratic space for us to operate in.

"But now things have changed. So we are going to work for negotiation and national reconciliation and peace for this country. It's good to know that.

"The ANC has constantly said that the armed struggle is not a principle but a strategy, and that if there is another option given to us we will take it.

"Within months after we were unbanished, we suspended the armed struggle — so we've proved we've been a people of our word."

Violence, he says, should only be used in a "just war" as a last resort.

"I don't feel my time was wasted. The ANC and the people of South Africa have achieved changes. All of this is a vindication of what I have been doing. "We've been saying so long that apartheid is wrong. It's evil — and

soon after we were sentenced but we were turned down repeatedly until we resorted to court procedures.

"So we got married inside prison. We were together for the marriage ceremony and for 40 minutes after that. It was tough."

Now they are living as husband and wife for the first time in their painting and pottery filled flat in the Johannesburg suburb of Edmore. Niehaus is a teacher at a nearby school.

His parents are Carl and Margaretha Petronella Niehaus of Middelburg, Roodoepoort. Both are staunch Conservative Party members.

How did they breach the divide? There's love, says Niehaus.

"They don't agree with my political views, but they accept me as their son. Throughout the time I was in prison, I received the most incredible support from them."

In fact, while appearing in court in support of her son, Mrs Niehaus appeared to be more distressed by the fact that her son was living with his girlfriend than with his political affiliations.

Of his freedom, Niehaus says: "It's quite a shock to come out. It's very nice that there are so many supportive people around."

After a delayed honeymoon in the Cape at Easter, he plans to work for the ANC, studying through Unisa part time.

"I am an Afrikaner. So I want to reach out to fellow Afrikaners and to make the point that there is also a place in the new South Africa for Afrikaners. They don't have to fear losing their identity."

Whining at the word "arrest", he adds: "I've emphasised all the time while I was in prison that I was an Afrikaner. It is part of who I am and I can't deny it. That doesn't imply any contradiction between that and fighting for liberation."

— Cas St Leger

I have now been given clean slate, says Jenny

St Louis - 24 3191

A SIGN in Zulu on the wall close to the front door of Jennifer Schreiner's and Imprisonment Plunstead, Cape Town, cottage reads, *hlanga izizophimela* — the sun will rise.

This week, for the first time in more than 1100 days, Jennifer, 34, allowed herself to apply the words to her future.

After nearly four years as accused No 2 in one of the longest-running political trials in SA's history, the descendant of celebrated South African author Olive Schreiner and her five co-accused were



Jennifer Schreiner AMBROSE PETERS

A TASTE OF FREEDOM in her garden

After enrolling at the University of Cape Town she became aware of the struggle being waged by workers

By the early 80s she was

Outside Pretoria Central his wife, Jansie, and his parents were waiting for him.

He married Jansie while both were in prison in 1986. They had 40 minutes together, then 20 visits lasting 40 minutes each each year. "I saw Jansie on the day that we were sentenced. Then we were separated. For the next five months we were not allowed to write to each other."

"I wasn't even allowed to have a photo of Jansie, because prison regulations say one prisoner may not have a photo of another prisoner. Then I was allowed to write to her. I was not allowed to see her."

"That lasted for two-and-a-half years. The first time I saw Jansie again was when we got married. We had a long battle to get married. We lodged the application



CARL NIEHAUS 'I'm an Afrikaner. It is part of who I am' Picture COBUS BODENSTEIN

BUY A 40 MB

LIFERS HOME FROM ISLAND

C/Press 24/3/91 (253)

TWO "lifers" among the 31 political prisoners released from Robben Island this week - Mathews Meyiwa, 67, of Durban and John Nene, 48, of nearby Hammarsdale - were happy to return to their strife-torn communities to put their weight behind efforts to resolve the problems there

The group, the largest yet to be freed from Robben Island, was welcomed at Cowley House in Woodstock where ANC information head Pallo Jordan introduced members individually at a media conference

The courtyard was draped in ANC colours and huge banners and packed with ANC/SACP supporters who cheered and ululated as they greeted their returned heroes

Jordan castigated the government for dragging its feet on the release of political prisoners and said only 15 percent of prisoners who were eligible for release had so far been freed

The Human Rights Commission has identified 3 260 political prisoners in South Africa and so far no more than 400 have been released

"It's scandalous that 85 percent of the people eligible for release under the Groote Schuur Minute are still behind bars in March 1991, he said

Meyiwa read a statement on behalf of the group which said he and his comrades had been waiting for this day for 13 months

They welcomed it as a step forward, but could not understand, or explain why some of their comrades had been left behind

Jordan said close scrutiny of all earlier releases, excluding the handful of lifers and long-term prisoners in the present group, would show that the government was in fact not giving political prisoners the amnesty Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and others had received

"What the government has been doing is giving political prisoners remission of sentence

"This is something the government has traditionally given to those who sell mandrax, those who rape women, pimps and bank robbers - but never before to political prisoners"

Two MK men will work for a lasting peace



Lifer goes free ... Mathews Meyiwa raises a clenched fist salute after stepping off the boat from Robben Island

Witness collapses after long wait

By MONWABISI NOMADOLO

A SICKLY 65-year-old woman is in an East Rand hospital after collapsing while waiting to give evidence as a State witness at Springs Magistrate's Court this week.

Maria Mnguni, who was brought to court by detectives, is in the Far East Rand Hospital in an "unstable" condition. A hos-

pital spokesman would not elaborate

Mnguni, of Kwa-Thema, was brought to court by Detective Lucas Rapetsoa, the investigating officer in a case of theft of a television set.

She had spent more than three hours in court waiting for the case to be called when she collapsed. She was carried out the

court by sympathetic spectators when she developed breathing problems. Medics from a nearby fire station were called

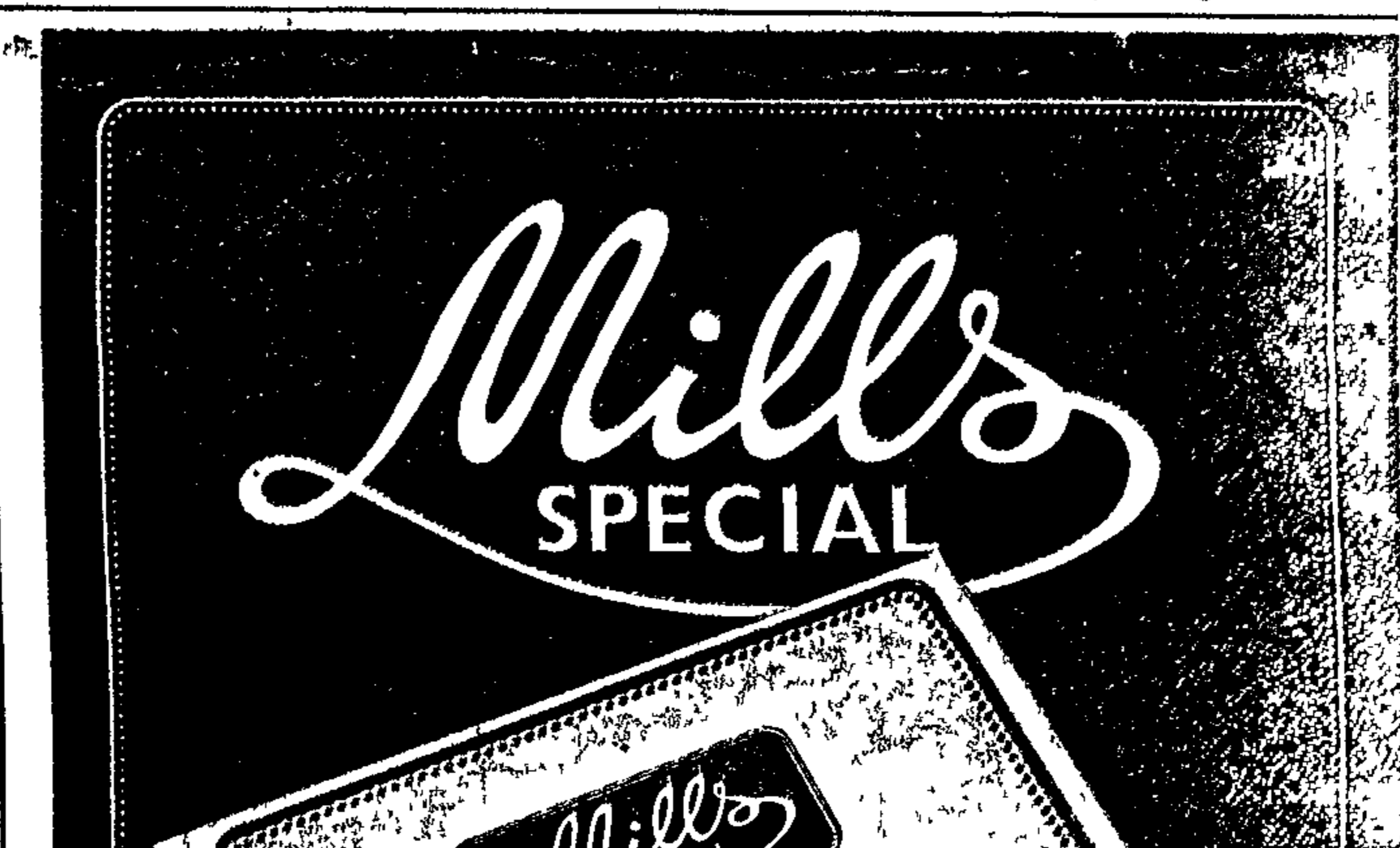
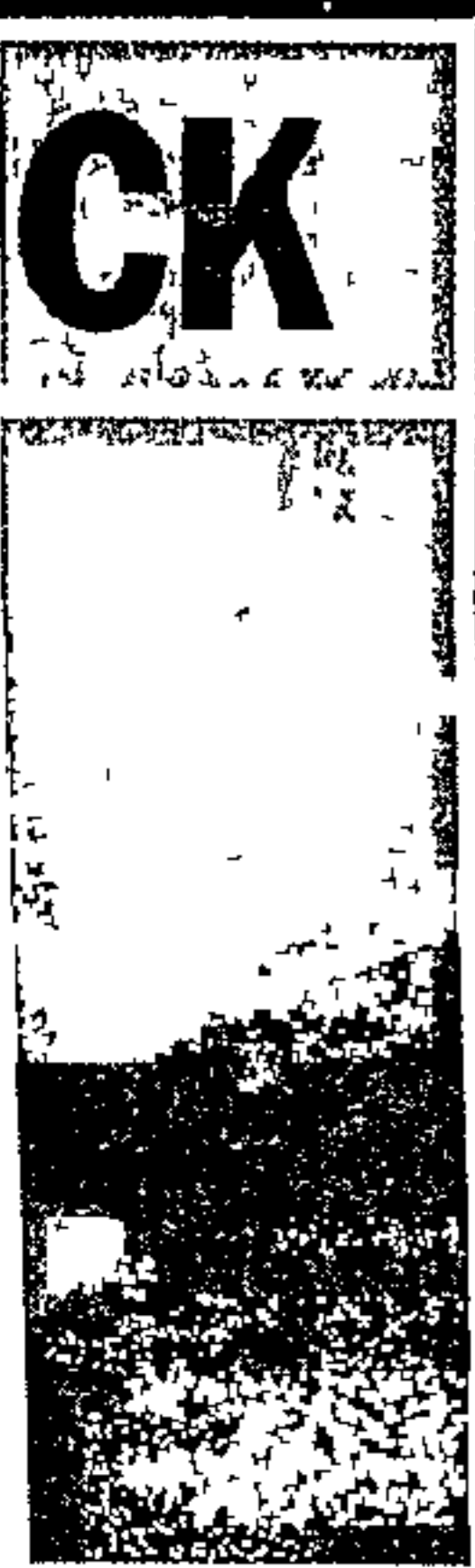
Relatives of the woman, who want to remain anonymous were surprised and angry that she was taken to testify in court in her state of illness. They said at times she could barely walk unaided.

The Kwa-Thema Police Sta-

tion commander, Maj Makhatu said it was not the policy of the SAP to "treat people like animals"

He referred inquiries to CID branch commander Lt Botha, who said no complaint of misconduct had been reported to the police

He would not comment on the matter and accused the press of "just looking for news"



Police probe 'racket' over prisons food

253

Sowetan 25/3/91

By ISMAIL LAGARDIEN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Department of Correctional Services is closely monitoring allegations of irregularities reported in the weekend Press

surrounding the supply of food to prisons.

It was reported yesterday that police were investigating allegations that a major supplier of food to prisons had attempted and/or has spent large sums of money on senior Prisons staff

Affidavits handed to the police, according to the *Sunday Times*, included allegations that "substantial payments by the (food supply) company for cars, holiday trips both here and abroad, hunting trips, jewellery, furniture and cash" had been made to high-ranking Correctional Services officials

The affidavits include one by a former employee

Company

of the supply company, who "confessed" that he personally disbursed company money for expensive gifts, the report said

The managing director of the company denied that there had been any irregularities in his company's dealings with the prisons service

Brigadier Erica van Zyl of the department told *Sowetan* yesterday that the department had taken note of the allegations and that the law must take its course

Govt acts ²⁵³ on prison ^{Star 25/3/91.} bribery allegations

Minister of Justice Kobie Coetsee has ordered an immediate independent investigation into allegations of irregularities in the supply of some prison foods

He said the investigation followed an updated report submitted to him by the Commissioner of Correctional Services

An independent person with chief magistrate status "in respect of those areas which possibly might not be covered by the SAP investigation or the Attorney-General (will be instituted) to determine whether the product is a suitable item in the nutritional programme or whether it should be withdrawn immediately, Mr Coetsee said

The inquiry would reveal whether the product is below standard, if people in the department were aware of this and, if so, whether it was reported to any authority — and if not, why not

Mr Coetsee said it would be established whether or not production of the product was below standard and whether or not negligence or fault existed

The Commissioner of Correctional Services learnt of alleged bribery involving the major supplier of prison foods, and two senior officers, only on Thursday, a statement from the department said last night

Advised

A press report yesterday claimed State departments had been aware of allegations that the food supplier had bribed officers for several months and that the director of the Tender Board had been advised of the allegations in November

The report said the chief Deputy Commissioner of Correctional Services, Lieutenant-General Paul Freysen, and the chief Deputy Commissioner (staff services), Lieutenant-General Deon van Wyk, had allegedly been bribed for eight years by a major supplier of prison foods

The supplier was not named

Also allegedly implicated is retired Colonel Slinger Singleton, the department's former procurement officer

It is claimed that affidavits handed to the police allege substantial payments by the company for cars, holidays, hunting trips, jewellery, furniture and cash. The report also claimed tests conducted by the CSIR revealed that the lack of protein in food provided by this company could result in malnutrition.

A spokesman for the commissioner's office yesterday said arrangements had been made with the Auditor-General and Advocate-General for an investigation into the matter — Staff Reporter-Sapa

How prisons will spend their cash 253

Sowetan 26/3/91
THE prisons service has set aside R38 190 for "detention" in the next 12 months.

A breakdown of how the prisons service will spend their allocated money for 1991/1992 reveals also that R353 722 will be spent on "treatment" of which "physical care" will receive R153 175, "educational services" will receive R10 820 and "psychological treatment", R1 887.

The highest allocation for funds in the prisons service allocations explanatory memorandum is for "physical guarding" at R472 207.

By ISMAIL LAGARDIEN
Political Correspondent

"Escapes" get R26 000..

"No substantial changes have taken place in respect of the policy and activities of the Department (of Correctional Services), but in order to keep within the limits of the budget, it was only possible to provide for a daily average prison population of 109 500 and personnel numbers of 23 386," the memorandum from the prisons service explained

Afrikaner rebels with different causes

By Pearlle Joubert

THE contradictions within Afrikaners were again highlighted this week when two radically different political prisoners were granted indemnity. (253)

Both of them are Afrikaans-speaking, come from a working-class background, grew up in rural areas and spent periods behind bars for their beliefs.

Both were released on Tuesday — Mr Carl Niehaus, a theology student, and Mr Piet "Skiet" Rudolph, an ex-policeman and city councillor.

Niehaus and Rudolph were part of a group of 41 people released in terms of a major amnesty and indemnity for political prisoners' South 2/13-27/3/91

Both Rudolph and Niehaus were accused of causing bomb explosions, aimed however at radically different targets.

Niehaus was expelled from the Randse Afrikaanse Universiteit in 1980 for putting up posters asking for integrated schools and the release of Mr Nelson Mandela. He joined the ANC in 1981, was arrested in 1983 and sentenced and found guilty for planning explosions at the Johannes-



FREED: Carl Niehaus with his wife, Jansie, after his release (253)

burg gasworks and the SADF's Carlton Centre recruitment office.

Rudolph, the leader of the Orde Boerevolk, was freed from a six-month spell in detention. Niehaus had served half of his 15-year sentence.

Rudolph embarked on a 30-day hunger strike to secure his release and would have faced various charges, including the theft of arms and ammunition from the air force headquarters and the planting of several bombs. One bomb went off

at the historic Melrose House in Pretoria last year, others at National Party offices in Pretoria and Roodepoort and at Beeld newspaper offices in Johannesburg.

Both of them said they were committed to negotiations — Rudolph to secure an independent Afrikaner homeland and Niehaus to build a nonracial South Africa.

According to Rudolph, there were still 14 to 16 rightwing detainees who should be released.

His attorney, Mr Wim Cornelius, lodged about 30 applications for indemnity for his rightwing clients, among them Rudolph's three co-accused in the Melrose House bombing.

The government, as part of the Pretoria Minute agreement with the ANC, has released 310 political prisoners so far.

Niehaus said there was "no way" the actions of MK soldiers and ANC people be compared to what rightwingers had done.

"We were part of a political organisation and we worked and cooperated within structures. We worked because we wanted to make conditions better for all South Africans — not only for a small minority of the population," he said.

Both Niehaus and Rudolph want to spend their days of freedom in working for political goals — Rudolph in unifying rightwing groupings and Niehaus in working for church organisations or the ANC and helping with reconciliation.

APARTHEID BAROMETER

PRISON SERVICE BUDGET

(253)

THE Department of Correctional Services is providing for a daily average prison population of 109 500 and personnel numbers of 23 386, according to a memorandum from the prisons service explaining its budget allocations for 1991/92 *W/mad 28/3 - 4/4/91*

The department has set aside R38 190 for "detention" in the next 12 months. Of its total allocation, R353 722 will be spent on "treatment", of which "physical care" will receive R153 175, "educational services" R1 082, "psychological treatment" R1 887 and "escapes" R26 000. The highest allocation is for "physical guarding" at R472 207.

Plight of 'forgotten' children of struggle

By Rehana Rossouw

South 28/3 - 3/4/91
 RELEASED political prisoners are angry and bitter at the preferential treatment given to exiles to integrate them into society while the needs of former prisoners are being ignored. (253) (11)

To highlight their plight, the Association for Ex-Political Prisoners (AEPP) is to make urgent representations to the National Coordinating Committee for the Repatriation of Exiles (NCCR) to be included in their mandate for assistance.

A conference of the Western Cape region of the AEPP last weekend revealed that almost 70 percent of their membership have not been able to secure employment since their release and most were reliant on financial assistance to survive.

Western Cape representatives of the NCCR attended the workshop

Welfare

AEPP member Mr Tony Yengeni, who until last week was facing charges of terrorism in the Supreme Court, said before many AEPP members were imprisoned, they were the responsibility of their organisations which saw to all their welfare needs

"We went to prison for implementing the programmes of our organisations, but when we came out, our organisations did not lift a finger to assist us," Yengeni said

"We are angered, disillusioned and confused, but we are also committed to a noble idea and need to channel our skills and motivation in the right direction.

Ex-prisoners feel that while exiles were returning to South Africa as heroes who had made sacrifices for the country, they were being stigmatised as criminals and their sacrifices were being ignored

"This sector has been neglected for a long time, people released in the early 1980s still do not have jobs today," said the chairperson of the AEPP in the Western Cape, Mr Amos Lengisi

"We are still begging from those who have work. When we come out of jail we



Tony Yengeni

find that we are strangers — to our communities, our families and our organisations"

Lengisi said although preparations for the return of exiles had only begun a few months ago, there were already assurances that exiles would get money, accommodation and jobs

Political prisoners have been trickling out of jails for years and no arrangements were being made to receive them

"We have to struggle to get a few cents from organisations," Lengisi said

"It is dehumanising to collect money and beg from people, but we have no alternative."

The numbers of ex-political prisoners were swelling monthly with the negotiations between the government and the ANC on the obstacles to negotiations

This compelled the AEPP to address the process of the reintegration of their members, the conference heard

Many members had been in exile before returning to the country to carry out the aims of their organisations

The AEPP national secretary, Mr Naledi Tsidi, said that when political prisoners were released they soon realised that they were "on their own"

"Our task is to sensitise the community, to make them sympathetic to our plight," Tsidi said

"Ex-political prisoners have become the forgotten children of the struggle. They have forgotten our deeds and our sacrifices"

Tsidi said the AEPP had not been able to get the NCCR to respond to appeals for assistance

"It is fashionable to be involved in assisting exiles, but it has never been fashionable to assist ex-prisoners."

POLITICAL PRISONERS

(253)

THE HRC report estimates there were 250 "security" and 2 500 "unrest" prisoners in South Africa during February "Known" figures though are 223 and 1 062 respectively. This amounts to an estimated total of 2 750 political prisoners during that month and 1 285 "known" prisoners.

Wimant 2813-41491

Prison bribery claims: Coetsee announces probe

253

Minister of Justice and of Correctional Services Kobie Coetsee has appointed Pretoria Chief Magistrate P A J Burger to head an urgent departmental investigation after allegations last weekend of bribery connected to the Department of Correctional Services

Mr Burger, assisted by senior magistrate D Schoeman, started the investigation on Wednesday, the Minister said in a press statement

Public

"This is a departmental investigation and does not take the form of a public hearing. The results will be referred to the relevant authorities for action and will be made public," Mr Coetsee said

According to newspaper reports, police are investigating allegations that an unnamed major supplier of prison food to the Department of Correctional Services has for years sought to bribe senior officials and top-ranking officers

Announcing the investigation on Thursday night, Mr Coetsee said it would make

recommenda-
tions to him concerning

● The suitability or otherwise of the texturised plant protein supplied by the firm Pro-Tol to the Department of Correctional Services

● Whether this product should be withdrawn from the nutritional programme

"He (Mr Burger) will also report on any possible negligence or guilt on the part of officials of the Department of Correctional Services in connection with the acquisition or utilisation of the product," Mr Coetsee said.

"It must be emphasised the investigation covers the areas not covered by the SAP investigation and the Advocate-General's involvement"

The department issued a statement on Sunday announcing that the Commissioner of Correctional Services had authorised two separate investigations, by the Auditor-General and Advocate-General, into the allegations

Mr Coetsee added that in the meantime he had issued instructions that, pending the

outcome of the investigation, "the nutritional programmes (for prisoners) immediately be amplified with additional protein and vitamin-rich foods, such as milk and/or eggs and/or meat and/or fish"

Such action would of necessity increase the expenditure of the department and have to be budgeted for

Instructions

"The Minister has furthermore given instructions that quality-control measures in respect of products supplied to the department, be reviewed and applied more systematically," Mr Coetsee said

"All persons, including members of the media, are invited to submit in writing evidence to Mr Burger which may relate to the (inquiry's) terms of reference"

Mr Coetsee said that on the basis of "firm advice and certification", the department believed the nutritional value of the food programmes for prisoners exceeded standards prescribed by the World Health Organisation — Sapa

'We refuse to sign indemnity forms'

Islanders demand amnesty not pardon

CP Press 31/3/91

253

SEVERAL ANC members serving sentences on Robben Island are refusing to sign the indemnity forms that would secure their release.

The prisoners are apparently not signing in protest against the indemnification procedure.

They are arguing that their imprisonment was illegitimate in the first place and they object to applying for a pardon from a government they consider to be illegitimate. They are demanding a general amnesty.

It is not clear how many prisoners are involved, though ANC spokesman Saki Macozoma said they accounted for less than five percent of the ANC contingent among the 150 to 160 prisoners still on the island.

and their lawyers are taking place and the issue has largely been resolved," Macozoma said.

According to Cape Town attorney Willie Hofmeyr, the ANC inmates are still discussing the issue with the ANC, and "have not refused to sign for indemnity as such, although they haven't signed yet."

Hofmeyr said only the PAC and the Black Consciousness Movement inmates had refused outright to sign for indemnity. ANC spokeswoman Gill Marcus said there was no compulsion on anyone to sign the forms.

"The situation has been explained to them and they know what it means not to sign," she said.

The PAC's assistant general secretary, Carter Seleka, said about 60 PAC inmates on Rob-

ben Island, and other prisons throughout the country had refused to sign for indemnity.

"Our position has always been that political prisoners - not only of the PAC - should be released unconditionally," he said.

No PAC prisoners have been released so far.

It is unclear what the prisoners' position will mean for the April 30 deadline the ANC has set for the release of all political prisoners.

Seleka said the PAC had "nothing to do with the April 30 deadline, but if they do release all political prisoners, including the PAC's, it's well and good."



Saki Macozoma

'Prisoner release' deadline warning by freed ANC man

ROBBEN Island prisoners hope they will all be released by April 30, according to James Ngqondela, who was freed last week.

Ngqondela was among 40 prisoners released last week in terms of the ongoing programme of prisoner releases.

CP Press 31/3/91

253

The ANC has set April 30 as the deadline for the government to release all prisoners, failing which it will break off talks.

Today, with an ANC flag flying outside his Kwazakhele home and guests streaming in and out to welcome him home, Ngqondela warned of a "reaction" if this demand was not met.

He also offered a terse message to the youth: "Go back to school and be educated. The future South Africa needs educated people. I implore the children to get an education."

Ngqondela, in his mid-fifties, is now looking forward to a "prosperous future if the government is sincere in assisting the ANC in solving the country's problems".

Ngqondela has served a total of 21 years behind bars, in two terms of imprisonment. In the second case, he was arrested in 1983 and sentenced to 13 years for possession of arms and ammunition.

But today Ngqondela said he would continue to work for the ANC "until South Africa is free".

"Once I am more settled I will continue the work through the Kwazakhele branch." - Pen

ANC to fight for release of MK two

By THEMBA KHUMALO

THE ANC has vowed to fight for the immediate release of two guerrillas, Mthetheleli Mncube and Mzondeleli Nondula, whose appeals against their death sentences were dismissed by the Bloemfontein Appellate Court

Justice Hefer, with two other judges, upheld all six death sentences against Nondula for the killing of the De Nysschen and Van Eck families who died in landmine explosions in Messina in December 1985.

The judges commuted to 25 years two death sentences imposed on Mncube for the shooting to death of two white policemen who were transporting him to prison after he was apprehended near Messina in 1986. But his death sentence for the killing of Edward Meluba, who died after his truck had detonated Mncube's landmine, was upheld. The court found that Nondula had planted the landmines.

This means that Mncube is facing one death sentence and Nondula six.

ANC spokesman Saki Macozoma said the ANC would leave no stone unturned to secure the release of Nondula and Mncube as well as that of other political prisoners on Death Row.

"As far as we are concerned all our members on Death Row qualify for indemnity under the Pretoria



Piet "Skiet" Rudolph released in terms of indemnity agreement.

Minute. Mncube and Nondula are no exception. The failure of their appeal shouldn't dampen their families' spirit," Macozoma said.

However, Macozoma said he would not be surprised if the authorities resisted the release of the prisoners.

Mncube's sister Dudu said she visited her brother after the appeal was dismissed and found him in good spirits.

She said her family was "very disappointed" by the outcome of the appeal and are hoping the ANC will fight for the men's release by the end of April.

"If the government can release Piet Rudolph, we fail to understand why they can't free my brother and others."

Cadres' appeals

dismissed

253
Opphen
31/3/91

PUBLIC SECTOR - GOVT. PRISONS

1991

APRIL - JUNE

SAP to probe food 'bribery' informant

8/24/91
By Shareen Singh

A former employee who has alleged that a food company bribed top prisons officers "for years" is himself under investigation by the police, Witwatersrand Attorney-General Klaus von Lieres said last night.

Mr von Lieres was confirming a claim made to The Star by F E von Lemke, managing director of Pro Tol Foods.

'Sensational'

Mr von Lemke also said that his side of the story would make "sensational news" but that he had been advised by lawyers not to speak to the press for the time being.

Mr von Lieres said that the investigation into one of the informants — being conducted by the commercial branch of the South African Police — was ongoing but some parts had already been completed.

253
250

He declined to say what the investigation involved, but said that it was "not the main focus" of the inquiries.

The former Pro Tol employees alleged that the company had bribed two senior officers in the Department of Correctional Services for years in order to repeatedly secure a contract to supply food worth millions of rands to South African prisons.

Corruption

The two officers, already identified as General Deon van Wyk and General Paul Freyson, had allegedly rigged food samples submitted by Pro Tol to the State Tender Board to make the food tastier and more appealing to the panel which evaluated the samples.

Since the allegations were revealed last week, Minister of Justice Kobie Coetzee has appointed the Chief Magistrate of Pretoria, P A J Burger, to investigate claims of bribery and corruption.

New claims in jails food bribery row

(253)
Sowetan
2/4/91

A FORMER employ-
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Sowetan Correspondent

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School in prison for 250

South 4/4 - 10/4/91
By Shadley Nash

A PRISON school, the first of its kind in the country, has been started at St Albans jail in Port Elizabeth.

About 250 prisoners have already enrolled at the school, held in a renovated building on the prison's premises.

The school, which goes up to matric, can accommodate up to 500 "pupils". Skills training in various trades is also offered. The teaching staff comprises

Department of Correctional Services officials, assisted by four qualified teachers.

"We have also received enquiries from several recently qualified teachers looking for teaching posts," said Lieutenant John da Silva, the "headmaster"

He said the school tried to provide prisoners with an opportunity to educate and prepare themselves for when they leave the prison. A lack of funds and shortage of training materials were some of the problems he hoped could be overcome with a bursary system

253
"While study material is given free of charge, other resource material, such as setwork books, have to be bought.

"The formation of an education trust may go a long way towards resolving our financial problems," Da Silva said

Adjacent to the school is a training centre run in conjunction with the East Cape Training Centre. Carpentry, masonry and training in various other trades are offered at the training centre.

Of the more than 5 000 prisoners at St Albans, about 425 are receiving training at the training centre - PEN

South 4/4 - 10/4/91.

ANC talks ultimatum



(253)



WELCOME HOME: Mpumelelo Gaba hugs his wife, Ntombi, after being released from Robben Island on Wednesday. Gaba was expected to be released in the year 2002.

PIC: YUNUS MOHAMED

WITH the April 30 deadline in sight, the ANC this week warned that the negotiation process would be halted if all political prisoners, including those on deathrow, were not released in time.

ANC lawyer and one of its chief negotiators, Mr Mathew Phosa, said this week that the ANC would not enter proper negotiations unless all the conditions in the Harare Declaration were met.

They include the repeal of the Internal Security Act and other repressive legislation and the right of all exiles to return by April 30.

His warning follows rapid moves by the government towards negotiations, starting with the proposed All Party Conference (APC)

The ANC, in its annual January 6 policy statement, agreed to participate in the APC

Phosa, who serves on two working groups set up by the government and the ANC after the Grooté Schuur and Pretoria summits last year, said the ANC rejected the contention by the Minister of Constitutional Development, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, that April 30 was a "mere target date"

"I don't see the ANC entering into negotiations unless the Harare conditions are met.

"The government holds the keys to Robben Island and all other prisons. There can possibly be no pleasure or benefit for the government in keeping political prisoners locked up," he said.

Phosa said the ANC wanted all exiles to have a "clear right to return by April 30", free from any danger.

"Those who don't return must do so as their own personal choice."

He said the government's failure to remove the obstacles by April 30 would cast doubt "on the bona fides" of President FW de Klerk.

Phosa said the ongoing township violence on the Reef and Natal "impinged seriously" on the negotiation process and was one of the main items at the ANC's executive committee meeting, which began on Thursday.

"We are saying we can't get involved in negotiations if people are killed on a daily basis. The violence is a threat to our strategy of negotiations," he said.

Making punishment fit the crime

253

South Africa 4/4-10/4/91

KEEPING the daily average prison population of 97 066 people behind bars in South Africa costs

taxpayers R1,6 million a day. Overcrowding in South African prisons has clearly reached crisis proportions.

The Minister of Correctional Services, Mr Kobie Coetsee, announced in parliament last month that the most overcrowded prison in the country was Pollsmoor in Cape Town, which was 122 per cent overcrowded on December 31 last year.

South Africa has one of the highest crime rates in the world. Cape Town has the highest murder rate of the world's 100 largest metropolitan areas.

It is not surprising, then, that South Africa also has the highest per capita prison population, with an average of 111 557 inmates on any given day in prison.

In an attempt to overcome the problem of prison overcrowding, legislation is to be introduced during the current session of parliament authorising magistrates and judges to impose "a sentence option of probation or correctional supervision".

This will be managed by the Department of Correctional Services and is expected to help minimise the overcrowding of prisons.

A spokesperson for the department said he could not divulge details of the proposed legislation, as it was "still in the process".

They were still investigating sentence options and will present them to interested parties, such as magistrates and judges, the police and departments of health once the proposals are drafted.

The Bill could be presented to parliament by May and may include sentence options of probation or correctional supervision.

The department will rely on recommendations from a commission established under the chairmanship of a Pretoria magistrate Mr Willem Krugel, which advised the Minister of Justice on ways to deal with prison overcrowding.

Real solution

The commission has since made several recommendations, most of them dealing with community-based sentences.

It seems South Africa has caught up with the rest of the world in realising that the only real solution to prison overcrowding is to send fewer people to prison.

In the United States, a wide range of alternative — or creative — sentences are available as options to the judiciary.

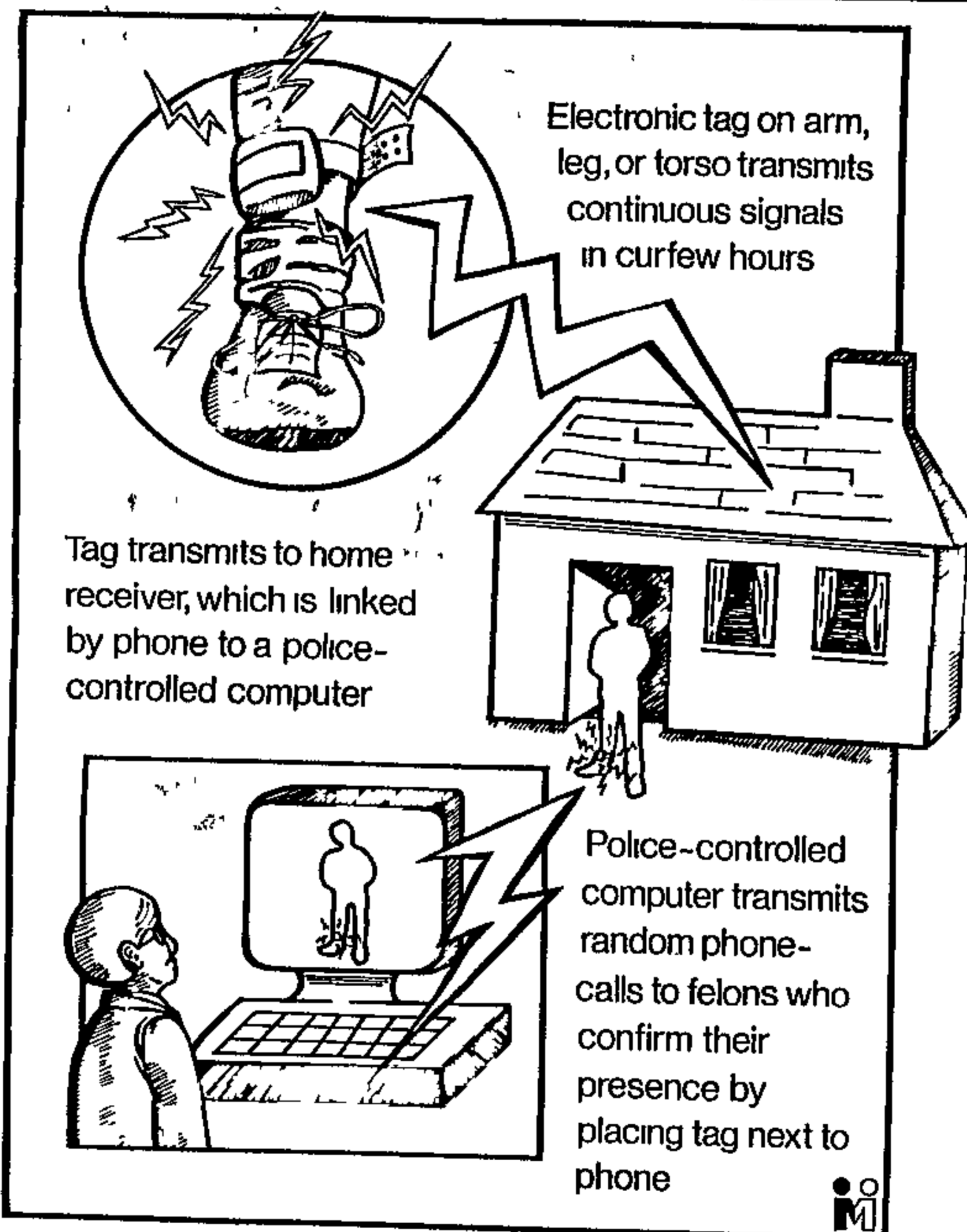
The prison population in the United States is growing faster than the prisons are and alternative sentences are finding favour with more and more judges and jailers.

In courts throughout the country, people convicted of nonviolent crimes, from drunken driving and fraud to car theft and burglary are being sentenced to confinement at home or dormitory halfway houses, with permission to go to and from work.

The sentences may also include stiff fines, community service and a brief taste of prison life.

The programme allows lawbreakers

Chronic overcrowding in South Africa's jails has prompted the Department of Correctional Services to examine ways of keeping people convicted of non-violent crimes out of prisons. By the end of this session of parliament, legislation will have been passed introducing new sentence options for the judiciary. But the experience in other countries is that alternative sentences give rise to widespread abuses, REHANA ROSSOUW discovered:



to live at home, cutting costs while keeping families intact and off welfare. Since the offenders can get or keep jobs, part of their salaries can be paid out as fines or as compensation to their victims.

In the US, about 30 states have funded "intensive probation supervision" in which participants are required to work, keep a curfew, pay victims restitution and, if necessary, receive alcohol or drug counselling.

Surprise visits each week from corrections officers ensure that the offenders stick to the rules.

Other states have a more restrictive option: the work-release centre, a halfway house where offenders must live out their sentences.

The system allows them to go to work, often at jobs found by the local government, but maintains more of the trappings of confinement, such as dormitory life and security checks.

A few localities have resorted to the most low-tech deterrent of all — shame.

The "scarlet letter" approach requires motorists convicted of drunken driving to paste bumper stickers on their cars announcing the fact.

However, after two decades of operation in the United States, criminologists are questioning the effectiveness of alternative sentencing.

While these methods are certainly cheap enough, they do not seem to have an impact on the real problem — the soaring crime rate.

Some criminologists suggest that offenders placed on intensive probation are less likely to commit the crimes again than those placed on traditional probation or sent to prison.

But the most pressing concern is whether society supports this new form of criminal law and enforcement. The judiciary is under constant pressure to let the "punishment fit the crime".

At the 1989 conference of the American Society of Criminology, two criminologists from the School of Criminol-

ogy at Florida State University, Eugene H Czajkowski and Laurin A Wollan, exposed the "dark side" of alternative sentencing.

Alternative sentencing has come a long way in the last few centuries, considering that punishment used to range from castration, sterilisation, donating blood, going to church and joining the armed forces, to memorising the Ten Commandments.

"There is no doubt that creative sentencing is efficacious in reducing incarceration levels, but in the long run, that issue is not as important as whether certain freedoms are unduly abused by alternative sentencing practices," they said.

"At the most elementary level, it can be argued, that the criminal justice system can intrude in the lives of offenders only to the extent that the crime has affected the lives of others.

"While 'fitting the punishment to the crime' may be an oversimplification in

the modern criminal justice system the idea does demand that the degree of controlling action taken against an offender be limited by a sense of proportion to the crime committed," argue Czajkowski and Wollan.

They criticised the US probation system, citing it as an example of what is meant by the criminal judiciary's enforcement of non legal standards of behaviour.

To remain out of prison, probationers and parolees have been required to abide by rules of conduct, sometimes quite elaborate, which have little direct bearing on the offence committed.

"For example, a person placed on probation for stealing a car would likely be constrained in his sex habits, his drinking habits and his work habits.

"The relationship between stealing a car and refraining from sexual intercourse with someone not one's spouse was never clear, but sexual conduct was a major restriction for all manner of offenders on probation and parole.

Another requirement which borders on non-legal punishment was the requirement to seek and maintain employment — yet it has never been a crime to be unemployed.

Simple guidelines

Czajkowski and Wollan also criticised community service orders which frequently bore no relation whatsoever to either the crime or the victim.

To benefit the community, courts usually followed simple guidelines specifying that profit making organisations could not be beneficiaries of community service orders.

"Beyond that, it is virtually open season for judges and others in the criminal justice system to promote their favourite charities and noble causes."

A recent case which caused a tremendous row in the US, involved a judge who had before him a woman convicted of a drug offence.

The woman was receiving public assistance and had several out-of-wedlock children. With each new child her public assistance increased.

The judge placed the woman on probation for her drug offence and set a condition of her probation that she undergo sterilisation.

"He was obviously incensed by her behaviour in generating children for the welfare rolls," Czajkowski and Wollan said.

The world wide problem of overcrowded prisons is forcing more and more countries to consider implementing forms of alternative sentencing.

At the United Nations General Assembly's Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Prisoners in 1988, the meeting concluded that while the dangers of alternatives were appreciated, it was appropriate to pursue the "ambitious target" of the general reduction of prison population.

"Too great an emphasis on the negative side-effects of the use of alternatives could be counter-productive," the Congress noted.

The meeting heard reports that in some countries alternative sentencing had met with success.

They proposed three principles. That there be a minimum intervention in the life of the individual concerned, that where the safety of the community was not at risk, reparation should take priority over deterrence or retribution and, thirdly, that imprisonment should not be the "centre piece" of the judicial system.

"However, it is important to remember that the perception of the degree of safety or risk to the community should reflect the views of the public at large," the Congress stated.

Marches held 'to put spark under govt'

THE ANC, SACP and Cosatu in the PWV region would stage five marches to prisons on Saturday to protest against government's "slow movement" in the removal of all obstacles to negotiations, the organisers said yesterday.

Memoranda would be handed in at the prisons demanding the release of all political prisoners by April 30 — the ANC's deadline to government — and indemnity for ANC and SACP member Ronnie Kasrils and others.

Similar protest marches will be held across the country on Saturday.

as part of a national "mass action offensive" organised by the alliance of the ANC, SACP and Cosatu.

ANC spokesman Barbara Hogan said at a media conference in Johannesburg "We believe that unless the government releases all political prisoners and removes all other obstacles to negotiations by the end of the month, the whole process of negotiations will be jeopardised."

The marches are to Pretoria Central Prison, the Johannesburg Prison, Leeuhof Prison near Sharpeville, the Krugersdorp Prison and Modderbee Prison on the East Rand. — Sapa

Port Elizabeth prisoners are going back to 'school'

PRISONERS in Port Elizabeth are going back to school - without leaving prison. (253)

Unused buildings at St Alban's Prison have been renovated and upgraded and now serve as classrooms.

Prisoners attending the school, which has been operating for eight months, are allowed to attend classes away from their cell blocks.

The "headmaster", Lt John da Silva, said prisoners attending the school were referred to as students because "we want to build a positive, psychological aspect into the training these people receive".

The school can accommodate 500 students and already has 250.

Students are able to receive education up to matric level as well as skills training in various trades.

Teachers at the school are made up of staff from the Department of Correctional Services staff as well as four qualified teachers.

Adjacent to the school is a training centre - run in conjunction with the East Cape Training Centre - where 420 St Alban's prisoners are learning carpentry, masonry and various other trades. PEN

Marching to Pretoria

Sowetan 7/4/91. 253



By CP Reporters and Sapa

UMKHONTO weSizwe chief of staff Chris Hanu walked into the Pretoria Central Prison yesterday to demand the unconditional release of all his cadres before the end of this month

More than 5 000 ANC supporters waited patiently outside the prison while Hanu and Winnie Mandela, wife of ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela, delivered a memorandum demanding, among other things, the unconditional release of all political prisoners and the dismissal of the cabinet ministers responsible for the security forces

The march on Pretoria Central - which started on Church Square and brought traffic in the capital to a standstill - was one of five by ANC supporters to prisons in the PWV area to urge the government to address the remaining obstacles that have to be removed before negotiations can start

After the march a short ceremony was held at the Mamelodi cemetery to unveil the tombstone of Solomon Mahlangu, an MK soldier executed in 1979

Hanu told the crowds that the march had delivered a powerful message to the FW de Klerk "regime" which he hoped De Klerk would heed

Hanu praised both the crowds and the police for showing disciplined behaviour

"We have achieved an important victory by the discipline we have displayed which shows that De Klerk has no reason to keep our cadres behind bars

"I would also like to thank the police for their behaviour and hope that they shall maintain it when we arrive at the new society as they will still be cops

"But in the new society we shall expect them to uphold democracy," said Hanu

More than 3 500 ANC members also marched from Soweto's Lesedi Clinic to the Johannesburg Prison

Addressing the crowd before the 14km march began, prominent ANC leader and former life-prisoner Andrew Mlangeni warned the government that unless political prisoners were released by April 30, the ANC would consider suspending talks

"We are saying to the government that unless these demands are met, the ANC will reconsider further participation in the peace talks"

Get rid of these last barriers to talks, ANC warns govt



Solidarity outside "Sun City". ■ Pics. MIKE MZILENI

March

Time's up ... marchers remind the government of the April 30 deadline on prisoners.

Voilence Threat halts march

Police monitored the protest, but kept a low profile

The march to the prison - popularly known as "Sun City" - where 20 ANC members are held, also commemorated the 1979 execution of MK soldier Solomon Mahlangu

The march follows a day after the ANC handed De Klerk an ultimatum to meet certain demands, including the dismissal of Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok and Defence Minister General Magnus Malan by May 9, or face a breakdown in the peace talks

Umkhonto weSizwe commander Ebrahim Ebrahim told the jubilant crowd that if the government did not yield to their demands, the ANC would unleash its force

On the East Rand, about 1 000 protestors marched on the Middelburg Prison where ANC officials Cyril Jantjes and Amos Masondo handed a memorandum to the prison's commanding officer, Brigadier Dawie Slabbert, who promised to forward it to the Ministry of Justice

After singing and toying for two hours, the protestors went to Daveyton's Sinaba stadium where a memorial service was held for Solomon Mahlangu and the 18 people who were shot dead in the township on

March 24

■ The petition also demanded the unconditional return of all exiles, the scrapping of all security laws, the dismissal of all responsible for crimes committed by hit squads, outlawing the carrying of weapons - traditional or otherwise - at public places or at rallies, the dismantling of all counter-insurgency units such as the Askaris, 32 Battalion the CCB, Koevoet and the Z-squad, and the immediate suspension of policemen responsible for last year's Sebokeng massacre and this year's Daveyton massacre

Star 8/19/91

Send clothes, Westcott asks from prison

Star Africa Service

253

MBABANE — Susan Westcott, jailed for 15 years for her part in the Broedersdroom African National Congress cell, has asked for clothes to be sent for her, said family sources in Swaziland yesterday.

Susan's father, school headmaster John Westcott, said his daughter had telephoned him from prison, the first time she had been allowed to do so, asking him to send the clothes to her brother in Johannesburg.

The request has heightened speculation that Susan, who was educated in Swaziland and taught there before she joined the ANC full-time, is expecting to be released.

Susan married co-conspirator Damian de Lange in a stark ceremony at Pretoria Central Prison in February. Their parents were allowed to attend.

MONDAY, 8 APRIL 1991

QUESTIONS

*Indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs

Judges/magistrates: visits to prisons

5 Mr P R E DA GAMA asked the Minister of Correctional Services

On how many occasions in 1990 did (a) judges and (b) magistrates inspect or pay visits to prisons in connection with persons awaiting trial?

C39E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

The available statistics unfortunately do not distinguish between visits to sentenced and unsentenced prisoners

(a) and (b)

Judges and magistrates visited prisons 87 and 605 times respectively during 1990 and have access to all sections of prisons which include awaiting trial sections. In this regard also refer the hon member to my written reply to question number 126 on 19 March 1991 in the House of Assembly which dealt with visits by judges and magistrates to prisons in general (see cols 634-651)

MONDAY, 8 APRIL 1991

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

QUESTIONS

*Indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs

Teacher/pupil ratio

12 Mr A SINGH asked the Minister of Education and Culture

(1) What is the teacher/pupil ratio in his Department for (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished,

(2) whether his Department has statistics on the teacher/pupil ratio in other education departments of the Republic, if so, what are the relevant ratios?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

(1) (a) (i) 1 23

(ii) 1 17

(b) 1990-03-31

(2) Yes

For 1989

House of Assembly

House of Representatives

Education and Training

Self-governing territories

| | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| House of Assembly | 1 17,6 |
| House of Representatives | 1 23,5 |
| Education and Training | 1 36,3 |
| Self-governing territories | 1 41,0 |

Schools: average class size

12 Mr A SINGH asked the Minister of Education and Culture

(1) What is the average class size in (a) primary and (b) secondary schools in each specified region of his Department,

(2) what is the class size required by his Department for supplying a class teacher in (a) primary and (b) secondary schools,

(3) what is his Department's policy in regard to the supply of additional teachers to schools?

D57E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

(1) My Department is not subdivided into regions and according to latest available figures the average class size is as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Primary Schools | 23 |
| Secondary Schools | 20 |

(2) Primary Schools

Junior Secondary Schools

Senior Secondary Schools

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Primary Schools | 30 |
| Junior Secondary Schools | 30 |
| Senior Secondary Schools | 25 |

(3) The supply of additional teachers to schools is based on the needs of the school concerned weighed against Departmental norms so as to ensure standardisation and uniformity

Teacher-training institutions admission refused

14 Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of Education and Culture

(1) How many persons were refused admission to teacher-training institutions under the control of his Department in respect of the current academic year,

(2) (a) what policy is being applied at present in regard to the acceptance of a specific number of prospective students into his Department's teacher-training institutions and (b) on what demographic projection and school admissions is the current acceptance policy into such institutions based,

(3) whether his Department is experiencing a shortage of teachers, if so, (a) what is this shortage and (b) in what categories of skills are these shortages found?

D39E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

(1) 2 384

(2) (a) In the first instance, admission of students for pre-service teacher education is determined by the projected needs of the Department, based on pupil population and subject specialisations

In the second instance, with effect from this year, Black students are being admitted for pre-service teacher education in subject special-

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs

Radiographers salary standard

167 Mr B B GOODALL asked the Minister for Administration and Economic Co-ordination

(1) Whether there is a salary standard for radiographers in provincial employ, if so, what is this standard, *Hansard 8/4/91*

(2) whether his Department has particulars of the salary standards applicable in the self-governing territories, if so,

(3) whether there is any discrepancy between the salaries paid to radiographers in the Republic and the self-governing territories, if so, (a) what is this discrepancy and (b) why does it exist,

(4) what is the status of State-employed radiographers? *Hansard 8/4/91* B444E

The MINISTER FOR ADMINISTRATION AND ECONOMIC CO-ORDINATION

(1) No, the salary dispensation applicable to radiographers in the Public Service also applies to radiographers in the employ of the Provincial Administrations,

(2) no,

(3) falls away,

(4) they are officers and employees in the Public Service who are classified in a specific occupational class and their status, therefore, do not differ from that of other officers and employees in the Public Service

SA: prisoners *AS3*

195 Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Correctional Services *Hansard 8/4/91*

(1) (a) What is the total number of prisoners in South Africa and (b) how many such prisoners (i) are awaiting trial and (ii) are children,

(2) in respect of what date is this information furnished? *Hansard 8/4/91* B571E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

(1) (a) 97 059 *AS3*
(b) (i) 23 869
(ii) Sentenced persons under 18 years 326
Unsentenced persons under 18 years 736

(2) 31 January 1991

Section 29 of the Prisons Act, 1959 (Act No 8 of 1959) stipulates inter alia that a person under the age of eighteen years who is accused of having committed an offence shall, before his conviction, not be detained in a prison unless his detention is necessary and no suitable place of detention mentioned in the Child Care Act, 1983 (Act No 74 of 1983) is available for his detention. In each such case the particular judicial officer issues a certificate to this effect. In deciding on the suitability of the place of detention, the nature of the offence with which a person is charged is taken into account as well as age, sex character, etc

A juvenile who is detained in terms of section 29 of the Prisons Act, 1959 shall not be permitted to associate with a person over the age of 21 years who is in custody, provided that he may be permitted to associate with such a person in custody who has been charged jointly with him, if the head of the prison is of the opinion that such association will not be detrimental to him. Juveniles are also separated with regard to age groups where facilities permit

Discussions take place regularly between the Department of Correctional Services, the local magistrates, prosecutors and the South African Police with a view to keep awaiting-trial juveniles out of prison

With regard to sentenced juvenile prisoners I would like to refer the honourable member to section 21 of the Prisons Act, 1959 (Act No 8 of 1959) which states, inter alia, that any prison or any part of a prison may be used for the detention, treatment and training of juveniles. Existing prisons or parts thereof are therefore set apart where required for this purpose and sentenced juvenile prisoners are transferred to these prisons on a regional basis for detention, treatment and training.

In regions which do not yet have separate prisons for sentenced juvenile prisoners, or where centralised detention has not yet been implemented, they are accommodated in prisons in separate sections or cells as far as possible, and depending on their needs, the available programmes are also offered to them if feasible.

Furthermore, it can be mentioned that the centralised detention of sentenced juveniles in certain regions is a direct consequence of the successes obtained with the youth centres at Lecuwkop (since 1986) and Pollsmoor (since 1987).

Generally the intention with these programmes is to equip the juvenile with the life skills which could contribute to his successful reintegration into the community after release.

The following basic guide-lines are followed

— The achievement of a certain level of education in order to facilitate adaptation into the community. In other words— acceptable norms and values must be acquired.

— Education and training as the basis of the programme. Depending on the present level of education, intellectual capabilities of prisoners and the term of sentence it is endeavoured to achieve a specific level of education. The aim is to achieve at least a Std 4 qualification.

— Meaningful utilisation of time which is aimed at positive orientation after release.

— Maintenance of present social structures to counteract institutionalisation and so doing prevent recidivism, eg maintenance and strengthening of family ties.

— The fulfilment of religious needs.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

— Healthy physical development through physical training and care.

Should the need arise, the further centralised detention of sentenced juvenile prisoners will be considered at certain centres which are deemed suitable for this purpose.

Fishing, heavy bobbin gear

196 Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs

- (1) Whether the use of heavy bobbin gear for fishing is permitted in South African waters, if so, (a) by whom and (b) why,
- (2) whether any scientific research has been conducted into the amount of damage particularly on in-shore bank areas, resulting from this fishing method, if so, (a) by whom and (b) what were the findings
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? *Hansard 8/4/91*

B575E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS

(1) Yes

(a) Department of Environment Affairs catch their panga quota in RSA waters in 1991

(2) No, not in South African waters

(a) Not applicable

(b) Not applicable

(3) Yes

The use of heavy bobbin gear is not prohibited by law. The South African trawling industry does not use heavy bobbin gear. The local inshore trawling industry is limited to the use of bobbins with a maximum diameter of 375 mm by means of a permit condition.

In terms of the existing Bilateral Fisheries Agreement between the RSA and Japan, Japan has a quota of amongst others 1 000 tons panga in 1991. Panga occurs mainly on a rocky seabed and heavy bobbins are necessary to protect the trawnet, which is dragged over the bottom, from damage. Japan was informed last year that the use

of heavy bobbin gear is undesirable and that the use of such gear will be phased out within two years. It must be stressed that this concession applies to only two Japanese vessels.

Fish/marine products statistics

197 Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs

Whether he will furnish export statistics in respect of fish and other marine products, if

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS
Yes

B576E

| | | |
|----------------|---------|--------------------------------|
| (a) West Coast | 1988/89 | 3 009 tons whole mass exported |
| Rock Lobster | 1989/90 | 2 684 tons whole mass exported |
| South Coast | 1988/89 | 429 tons tail mass exported |
| Rock Lobster | 1989/90 | 411,7 tons tail mass exported |
| Abalone | 1988/89 | 551 tons whole mass exported |
| | 1989/90 | 568,3 tons whole mass exported |

(figure subject to final confirmation)

The Department does not keep export statistics for other fish

| | | |
|----------------|---------|----------------|
| (b) West Coast | 1988/89 | 75,2% |
| Rock Lobster | 1989/90 | 76,8% |
| South Coast | 1988/89 | 95,3% |
| Rock Lobster | 1989/90 | 91,4% |
| Abalone | 1988/89 | 84,7% |
| | 1989/90 | 90,9% |
| Other Fish | | Not applicable |

White fish landed

198 Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs

How many tons of each species of white fish were landed during the 1990 fishing season?

B577E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS

Final figures are being processed and will be available by May 1991.

Walmer Estate ministerial houses

209 Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Public Works and Land Affairs

(1) Whether, with reference to his statement on 11 May 1990 (See Debates of Parliament (Hansard), cols 8929 and 8930), any progress has been made with regard to the (a) letting or (b) selling of the seven

(4) whether any of these houses have been occupied to date, if so, (a) by whom, (b) for what periods and (c) why,

(5) whether this complex is guarded, if so, (a) by whom and (b) at what cost?

B557E

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

253

MONDAY, 8 APRIL 1991

With regard to sentenced juvenile prisoners I would like to refer the honourable member to section 21 of the Prisons Act, 1959 (Act No 8 of 1959) which states, inter alia, that any prison or any part of a prison may be used for the detention, treatment and training of juveniles. Existing prisons or parts thereof are therefore set apart where required for this purpose and sentenced juvenile prisoners are transferred to these prisons on a regional basis for detention, treatment and training.

In regions which do not yet have separate prisons for sentenced juvenile prisoners or where centralised detention has not yet been implemented, they are accommodated in prisons in separate sections or cells as far as possible, and depending on their needs, the available programmes are also offered to them if feasible.

Furthermore, it can be mentioned that the centralised detention of sentenced juveniles in certain regions is a direct consequence of the successes obtained with the youth centres at Leeuwkop (since 1986) and Pollsmoor (since 1987).

Generally the intention with these programmes is to equip the juvenile with the life skills which could contribute to his successful reintegration into the community after release.

The following basic guide-lines are followed

— The achievement of a certain level of education in order to facilitate adaptation into the community. In other words— acceptable norms and values must be acquired.

— Education and training as the basis of the programme. Depending on the present level of education, intellectual capabilities of prisoners and the term of sentence it is endeavoured to achieve a specific level of education. The aim is to achieve at least a Std 4 qualification.

— Meaningful utilisation of time which is aimed at positive orientation after release.

— Maintenance of present social structures to counteract institutionalisation and so doing prevent recidivism, eg maintenance and strengthening of family ties.

— The fulfilment of religious needs.

MONDAY, 8 APRIL 1991

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Fish/marine products: statistics

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The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS
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| | | | |
|-----|--------------|---------|---|
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| | | 1989/90 | 509 3 tons whole mass exported |
| | | | (figure subject to final confirmation) |
| | Other Fish | | The Department does not keep export statistics for other fish |
| (b) | West Coast | 1988/89 | 75,2% |
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| | Abalone | 1988/89 | 84,7% |
| | | 1989/90 | 90,9% |
| | Other Fish | | Not applicable |

White fish, landed

198 Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs

How many tons of each species of white fish were landed during the 1990 fishing season?

B577E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS

Final figures are being processed and will be available by May 1991

Walmer Estate ministerial houses

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(1) Whether, with reference to his statement on 11 May 1990 (see Debates of Parliament (Hansard), cols 8929 and 8930), any progress has been made with regard to the (a) letting or (b) selling of the seven

(2) whether any of these houses have been occupied to date, if so, (a) by whom, (b) for what periods and (c) why,

(3) whether this complex is guarded, if so, (a) by whom and (b) at what cost?

B577E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE

- (1) and (2) A Board of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the matter and the hon member can be assured that suitable corrective measures have already been taken

Rhinoceros horn/ivory: poaching/trading

*6 Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs

- (1) Whether, in the light of the penalties currently being imposed by the provincial authorities in the Transvaal, the Orange Free State and the Cape Province for poaching and trading in rhinoceros horn and ivory, he will avail himself of the powers granted to him in section 21 (1) and 21 (2) (c) of the Environment Conservation Act, No 73 of 1989, to identify such poaching and trading to be activities having a substantial detrimental effect on the environment, if not, why not, if so,

- (2) whether he will make regulations in this regard with penalties for the contravention thereof being laid down in terms of section 28 (e) of the said Act, if not, why not, if so, when?

Handwritten: 9/4/91

Handwritten signature

B610E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS

- (1) No Poaching and trading in rhinoceros horn and ivory are being controlled in terms of the National Parks Act and the provincial nature conservation ordinances by the National Parks Board, the Provincial Nature Conservation Authorities and the South African Police. The National Parks Act and the ordinances of Natal and the Orange Free State have already been amended to provide for severe sentences (fines not exceeding R100 000 and imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years). I have been informed that the Cape and Transvaal ordinances will be amended accordingly in the very near future. I am, therefore, of the opinion that it is unnecessary to identify activities which may have a substantial detrimental effect on the environment in terms of the Environment Conservation Act when such activities are already being adequately controlled in

terms of other legislation. Should it become necessary in future to implement the measures of the Environment Conservation Act, No 73 of 1989, in this regard, it will be done in consultation with the relevant authorities.

- (2) Falls away

Environment Conservation Act: regulations

*7 Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Environment Affairs

Whether the regulations arising from the Environment Conservation Act, No 73 of 1989, have been finalised, if so, when will they be promulgated, if not, why not?

B611E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS

The way in which the question has been phrased makes it seem as though only one set of regulations can arise from the Environment Conservation Act No 73 of 1989. In actual fact, the Act allows for about 31 different aspects about which regulations can be promulgated, stretching over widely divergent fields, namely waste management, noise, vibration and shock, environmental impact reports and limited development areas.

Some of these regulations have already been promulgated such as the noise control regulations (April 1990). Others are being prepared such as those pertaining to waste management. In this instance however, due to legal technicalities, an amendment to the Act will have to be passed before regulations can be promulgated. The Department is giving attention to such a possible amendment.

The promulgation of regulations in terms of section 26 of the Act is subject to the identification of activities in terms of section 21 of the Act. Investigations into activities that should be identified, which include wide-ranging public participation, have come a long way, and a provisional list of activities should be available for comment later this year. With the approval of my colleagues regarding the activities on the list, as is required by the Act, the regulations could be promulgated early in 1992.

According to a recent legal opinion, regulations with regard to limited development areas

can only be promulgated after such areas have been declared. Prior to the declaration of limited development areas in terms of section 23 of the Act, such areas must first be determined. An interdepartmental committee is presently giving special attention to the coastal area for this purpose. Areas will be declared as they are identified and determined.

The most important single stumbling block preventing the promulgation of regulations under the Act is found in section 28(1)(iii) which reads "Any regulations under this Part which may affect the activities of any local authority or government institution shall only be promulgated with the concurrence of such a local authority or government institution". This leads to the almost impossible situation where the approval of every local authority or government institution that may possibly be affected must be obtained before a regulation can be promulgated. It is urgently required that this section be amended to enable the implementation of the Act in practice. The Department is presently paying attention to this aspect.

MPs daily police protection

*8 Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Law and Order

- (1) Whether any ordinary members of Parliament are at present receiving daily police protection, if so, (a) how many, (b) at what total monthly cost and (c) on whose instructions,

- (2) whether the justification for such protection is subject to regular review, if not, why not, if so, how regularly?

Handwritten: 9/4/91

Handwritten signature

B612E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

- (1) and (2)

In addition to the permanent guard duties which the Special Guard Unit provides at Acacia Park, Laboria Park and Pelican Park, individual Members of Parliament are, from time to time, guarded at their private homes as threats or risks to which they are exposed or may be exposed, demand for security reasons and in the interest of the Members and their families, I am, however, not prepared to divulge the number of Members who are receiving Police protection.

The Commissioner of the South African Police issued instructions according to which Regional Commissioners must, under specified circumstances, make police protection available to Members of Parliament. These duties are performed in the normal course of duties. The costs in this regard are therefore not calculated separately. This necessity for the duties is regularly reconsidered. As soon as the need therefore ceases to exist the services are immediately suspended.

Robben Island prisoners

*9 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Correctional Services

- How many prisoners were being held at the (a) maximum security and (b) medium security prison on Robben Island as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

Handwritten: 9/4/91

B615E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

On 8 April 1991, the figures were as follows:

- (a) 145 Security prisoners

- (b) 312 Non security prisoners in other words prisoners convicted and sentenced for common criminal offences and who are utilised as a source of labour for a variety of essential services on Robben Island

- *10 Mr G C Engel — Finance [Question standing over]

Margo Commission: recommendations

*11 Mr G C ENGEL asked the Minister of Finance

- (1) Whether the Margo Commission made any recommendations on fringe benefits taxation in respect of new entrants to corporate share purchase schemes, if so, what is the gravamen of these recommendations,

- (2) whether he intends alleviating the fringe benefits taxation burden on such entrants, if not, why not,

- (3) whether he will make a statement on the attractiveness of such schemes to participants?

B618E

87 deaths in police custody

253

~~253~~

Star 11/4/91

Some 87 people died in police custody in the 12 months ending February 28 this year, Minister of Law and Order Adriaan Vlok said yesterday.

Replying to a question from Patrick da Gama (LP Eersterus), Mr Vlok said three members of the SAP had been suspended from office and charged with murder in two cases of alleged assault which had led to the death of the persons in custody.

Suspended

"Their cases have not yet been finalised in court."

In four other instances of alleged assault, five members of the force had been suspended.

"The case dockets were investigated and submitted to the respective attorney-general for decisions as to whether to prosecute or not."

"The decisions are not yet known," he said.

Four people had died from

inflicted by the police.

In three of the cases, police had acted in accordance with section 49 of the Criminal Procedure Act.

"The investigation of the inquest dockets has not been completed and will, on conclusion thereof, be submitted to the attorneys-general."

Suicide

In the fourth instance, the court which held the inquest found that the police had acted lawfully and that no member was criminally liable for the death of the deceased.

Of the 87 people who had died in police custody, 23 had committed suicide, four had died of alcohol poisoning, 27 of natural causes, five were murdered by fellow prisoners, one died from suffocation, nine as a result of gunshot wounds — four of which were allegedly inflicted by police, 12 from alleged assault — six of whom were alleged to have been assaulted by police, and six from head injuries — Sapa.

Pietermaritzburg Medium A
 Pollsmoor Female
 Pollsmoor Maximum
 Pollsmoor Medium A
 Pollsmoor Medium B
 Port Elizabeth Female
 Port Elizabeth Male
 Port Shepstone
 Potchefstroom
 Richmond (KP)
 Robertson
 Rustenburg
 Sasolburg
 Springbok
 Staart van Paardeberg
 St Albans Maximum
 St Albans Medium B
 Stellenbosch
 Swellendam
 Tzaneen
 Upington
 Vereeniging Female
 Verulam
 Victor Verster Maximum
 Volksrust
 Voorberg
 Voortrekkerhoogte
 Waterval Medium A
 Waterval Medium B
 Worcester Female
 Worcester Male
 Zonderwater Open

Section 21 of the Prisons Act, 1959 (Act No 8 of 1959) states, inter alia, that any prison or any part of a prison may be used for the detention, treatment and training of juveniles. Existing prisons or parts thereof are therefore set apart where required for this purpose and sentenced juvenile prisoners are transferred to these prisons on a regional basis for detention, treatment and training.

In regions which do not yet have separate prisons for sentenced juvenile prisoners or where centralised detention has not yet been implemented, they are accommodated in prisons in separate sections or cells as far as possible, and depending on their needs, the available programmes are also offered to them if feasible.

Furthermore, it can be mentioned that the centralised detention of sentenced juveniles in certain regions is a direct consequence of the successes obtained with the youth centres at

Leeuwkop (since 1986) and Pollsmoor (since 1987)

Generally the intention with these programmes is to equip the juvenile with the life skills which could contribute to his successful reintegration into the community after release.

The following basic guide-lines are followed

— The achievement of a certain level of education in order to facilitate adaptation into the community. In other words— acceptable norms and values must be acquired

— Education and training as the basis of the programme. Depending on the present level of education, intellectual capabilities of prisoners and the term of sentence it is endeavoured to achieve a specific level of education. The aim is to achieve at least a Std 4 qualification

— Meaningful utilisation of time which is aimed at positive orientation after release

— Maintenance of present social structures to counteract institutionalisation and so doing prevent recidivism e.g. maintenance and strengthening of family ties

— The fulfilment of religious needs

— Healthy physical development through physical training and care

Should the need arise, the further centralised detention of sentenced juvenile prisoners will be considered at certain centres which are deemed suitable for this purpose

Crimes against security of State: prisoners
 274 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Correctional Services

How many prisoners who were (a) 18 years and older and (b) under the age of 18 years were serving sentences for (i) crimes against the security of the State and (ii) other crimes as at 31 December 1990 and the latest specified date for which information is available, respectively?

B720E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

31 December 1990

(a) (i) 237

(ii) 68 815

(b) (i) 0

(ii) 276

25 March 1991

(a) (i) 171

(ii) 70 691

(b) (i) 0

(ii) 423

Section 21 of the Prisons Act, 1959 (Act No 8 of 1959) states, inter alia, that any prison or any part of a prison may be used for the detention, treatment and training of juveniles. Existing prisons or parts thereof are therefore set apart where required for this purpose and sentenced juvenile prisoners are transferred to these prisons on a regional basis for detention, treatment and training.

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— The fulfilment of religious needs

— Healthy physical development through physical training and care

Should the need arise, the further centralised detention of juvenile prisoners will be considered at certain centres which are deemed suitable for this purpose

As far as the release of security prisoners is concerned, the hon member is referred to my reply in the House of Assembly to Question No 21 for oral reply on 26 February 1991 (Hansard Col 207-208)

Own Affairs

Groot Constantia State Estate: external contracts
 28 Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Welfare, Housing and Works

(1) Whether any external contracts for (a) building, (b) maintenance, (c) drainage, (d) road and (e) other specified works on the Groot Constantia State Estate were awarded during the 1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 financial years, if so, in respect of each of the above categories in each of these financial years, (i) what contracts, (ii) to what value and (iii) to which contractors,

(2) whether tender procedures were followed in each case, if not, why not in each case? B393E

The MINISTER OF WELFARE, HOUSING AND WORKS

(1) Yes

1987/88

(a) Building None

(b) Maintenance 1

(i) Repair thatched roof of Hoop Op Constantia

legislation has not been tabled in Parliament as yet and we are still engaged in negotiations

†Mr J DOUW Mr Chairman, may I also put a supplementary question to the hon the Minister?

†The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE Will the hon the Minister take another question?

†The MINISTER Yes, Mr Chairman

†The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE Order! The hon member may put his supplementary question *Answered 10/4/91*

†Mr J DOUW Mr Chairman, in his reply the hon the Minister said that similar meetings under the leadership of the hon MECs had taken place in all the provinces. Is the hon the Minister aware that Coloured and Indian management committees were not consulted about such a meeting in the Transvaal?

†The MINISTER No, Mr Chairman, this is a new question on which I have no information and which does not arise out of the relevant Natal episode [Interjections] I would be glad if the hon member could place it on the Question Paper

*9 Mr S K LOUW asked the Minister of Justice †

(1) How many members of Parliament were charged in the 1990 calendar year in terms of the provisions of the Internal Security Act, No 74 of 1982,

(2) whether he will furnish details of these charges, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details,

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? *C70E*

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER (for the Minister of Justice)

(1) and (2)

The required information is not readily available in the Department. To obtain the information all court records will have to be examined, which is not economically feasible

(3) A statement is not necessary

†Mr P A C HENDRICKSE Mr Chairman, are you aware of it that the hon member who put the question is not in the Chamber?

†The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE Order! I said yesterday that although it is not a rule, it is etiquette for an hon member who has put a question to be here

MPs indemnity

*10 Mr S K LOUW asked the Minister of Justice †

(1) Whether indemnity was granted during the 1990 calendar year to members of Parliament charged in terms of the provisions of the Internal Security Act, No 74 of 1982, if not, why not,

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? *Answered 10/4/91*

C71E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER (for the Minister of Justice)

(1) No As far as could be established no such requests for indemnity were received during 1990

(2) A statement is not necessary

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version

or written reply

General Affairs

Fringe benefit taxation

†Mr G C ENGEL asked the Minister of Finance *Answered 11/4/91*

(a) How much taxation revenue was raised, by category, from fringe benefit taxation on individuals during the latest specified tax year for which information is available and (b) how much taxation revenue is it estimated will be raised, by category, from this source in respect of the year ended 28 February 1991?

B616E

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

(a) Travelling allowance R241 613 898

Subsistence allowance R5 096 139

Entertainment allowance R19 528 130

Use of motor vehicles granted by employers R98 739 861

Subsidies R319 093 382

(1) Housing Schemes R10 086 849

(2) Other

Low or interest free loans R70 193 147

(1) Housing R10 084 286

(2) Other R49 092 582

Free or cheap accommodation R1 662 780

Acquisition of assets at less than actual value R61 560

Right of use of assets other than accommodation or motor vehicles R825 252 614

Meals and refreshments R112 080

Free or cheap services R440 959

Payment or releasing of employees' debts R184 089

Scholarships R210 138

Share options exercised R1 835 472

Other fringe benefits R17 774 072

Total R845 809 424

Answered 11/4/91

The above statistics represent 59,3% of all registered taxpayers in respect of which assessments have been raised for the 1990 year of assessment

(b) R1 813 389 029—The revenue from this source is not estimated according to each category of fringe benefits

Statistics in respect of tax payable on fringe benefits received by taxpayers falling under the Standard Income Tax on Employees (SITE) system are not available and therefore not included in the amounts shown in (a) and (b)

Prison warders/prisoners: killed/injured by prisoners *253*

237 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Correctional Services *Answered 11/4/91*

(1) Whether any prison warders were (a) killed and (b) seriously injured by prisoners in 1990, if so, (i) how many and (ii) in which prisons,

(2) whether any prisoners were (a) killed and (b) seriously injured by fellow prisoners in that year, if so, (i) how many and (ii) in which prisons? *B613E*

THE MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

(1) (a) Yes

(i) One (1) member of the Department of Correctional Services was killed by prisoners during 1990

(ii) Krugersdorp Prison

(b) Yes

(i) and (ii) Fourty one (41) members of the Department of Correctional Services were seriously injured by prisoners during 1990 at the prisons mentioned below and a further two hundred and fifteen (215) members received medical treatment/consultations for minor injuries sustained as a result of assaults by prisoners

THURSDAY, 11 APRIL 1991

THURSDAY, 11 APRIL 1991

- Brandvlei
- Colesberg
- Durban
- East London
- Groenpunt
- Johannesburg
- Klerksdorp
- Krugersdorp
- Modderbee
- Pollsmoor
- Port Elizabeth
- Pretoria
- St Albans
- Upington
- Zonderwater

253

(2) (a) Yes

(1) and (11)

All deaths in prisons in respect of which a medical practitioner is unable to certify that the prisoner died as a result of natural causes, are dealt with in terms of section 86 of the Prisons Act, 1959 (Act No 8 of 1959)

During 1990 one (1) prisoner at the Kimberley Prison was killed by a fellow-prisoner. Available information indicates that the deaths of a further twenty (20) prisoners who died at the following prisons, Barberton, Pietersburg, Bethal, Grootvlei, Durban, Groenpunt, Johannesburg, St Albans, Upington, Modderbee, Pietermaritzburg, Pollsmoor, Fauresmith, Robben Island and Witbank were presumably caused by assaults by fellow-prisoners. However, these inquests have not yet been finalised.

(b) Yes

(1) and (11)

The Department of Correctional Services regards every complaint of an assault, no matter how petty, in a serious light. Prisoners are daily given the opportunity to lodge any complaints or requests, and preventative measures, for example the reallocation of sleeping quarters or working places, are instituted should it appear that there is reason to believe that a prisoner is threatened. In cases of injuries which are related

to complaints of alleged assault, a suitable entry is made in a complaints register and/or a register of injuries and in addition to the necessary medical treatment which may be administered or prescribed by the medical officer, a departmental inquiry into the alleged assault is instituted. Where such a complaint is substantiated suitable disciplinary action is taken in terms of Prison Regulation 99 in the case of minor assaults, while complaints of serious assault are reported to the South African Police without delay for investigation in order that the legal process may take its normal course.

In total, 466 prisoners were injured in such a manner as a result of assaults by fellow-prisoners that they had to be referred to prison hospitals or hospitals outside prisons. These assaults took place at the following prisons:

- Barberton Medium A and B
- Bavanspoort Maximum and Medium
- Brandfort
- Brandvlei Maximum and Medium
- Caledon
- De Aar
- Durban Female and Medium D
- East London Female
- Eshowe
- Grootvlei Maximum and Medium
- Goedemoed Medium B
- Groenpunt Medium
- Heldersroom Medium
- Hawequa
- Johannesburg Medium B
- Klerksdorp
- Kroonstad Medium A and B
- Leeuwkop Medium C
- Middelburg (TVI)
- Mossel Bay
- Nylstroom
- Patensie
- Pietersburg
- Pietermaritzburg Medium A
- Potchetstroom
- Pollsmoor Medium B
- Pollsmoor Female
- Port Shepstone
- Port Elizabeth Male

- Port Elizabeth Female
- Robben Island Medium
- Rustenburg
- Sasolburg
- Senekal
- Seventein
- St Albans Maximum and Medium
- Vereeniging Male
- Verrulam
- Victor Verster Medium A and B
- Waterval Medium B
- Witbank
- Zonderwater Medium
- Zonderwater Open

253

I refer the Hon Member to my written reply in the House of Assembly on 9 April 1991 to question number 180 which deals with complaints of alleged assault on prisoners by members, (see col 902)

Officers: firearms/swords in safe custody

247 MR L F STOFBERG asked the Minister of Defence +

Whether officers who are not directly involved in operations have to have their firearms and swords placed in safe custody, if so, (a) since when, (b) by whose order and (c) why?

B647E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE

No Instructions are, however, periodically issued by the various Chiefs of the Arms of the Service with regard to the safekeeping of SA Defence Force weapons (a), (b) and (c) fall away

Persons under 18 serving sentences

272 MR D J DALLING asked the Minister of Correctional Services

(a) How many persons under the age of 18 years were serving prison sentences on (i) 30 June 1990 and (ii) 1 January 1991 and (b) in which prisons were these persons serving sentences?

B693E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

- (a) (i) 318
- (ii) On 31 December 1990—276

(b)

- Allandale
- Barkly East
- Barkly West
- Bavanspoort Medium
- Bethal Male
- Bethlehem
- Belfast
- Brandvlei Medium
- Brns
- Bulwer
- Caledon
- Craddock
- Dundee
- Dordrecht
- Durban Medium B
- Durban Female
- Dwarshoer
- Eshowe
- Estcourt
- Fort Beaufort
- General J C Steyn
- George Female
- Goedemoed Medium A
- Graaff-Reinet
- Grahamstown
- Greytown
- Groenpunt Medium
- Hawequa
- Heldersroom Medium
- Ixopo
- Johannesburg Female
- Johannesburg Medium A
- Johannesburg Medium B
- Johannesburg Medium C
- Kimberley Male
- King William's Town
- Kokstad
- Kroonstad Medium A
- Krugersdorp
- Ladysmith
- Leeuwkop Maximum
- Leeuwkop Medium B
- Lydenburg
- Malmesbury
- Middelburg (TVI)
- Middelburg (KP)
- Modderbee
- Mtunzini
- Nelspruit
- New Hanover
- Nigel
- Nylstroom
- Oendaalsrus
- Patensie
- Pietermaritzburg Female

11/4/91

1 285 still to be freed ANC

Sowetan 12/4/91

253

AS the April 30 deadline for the release of political prisoners draws nearer, the African National Congress yesterday put the figure of those still to be freed at 1 285.

However, a source in the Ministry of Justice has said only 850 applications from political prisoners applying to be released in terms of the Groote Schuur Minute were being considered

By ISMAIL LAGARDIEN
Political Correspondent

Earlier, the ANC said there could be as many as 2 750 political prisoners who had to be released.

A further 46 were on Death Row while about 70 were in detention, the organisation said

The Ministry of Justice yesterday said there would be no blanket releases. Only people who had applied in terms of the agreement would be

considered.

A problem arose when prisoners who had been convicted for criminal offences applied for indemnity, claiming that the offences were politically motivated, the source said.

"Since February 2 last year, 319 political prisoners have been released," he said.

The Ministry yester-

day said the April 30 deadline was not a cut-off date.

"What if a prisoner applies to be released on May 1. We cannot then say sorry the deadline was yesterday. Therefore, April 30 is only a target on a cut off," the source added.

During a recent briefing in Cape Town, Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee said he was confident the deadline would be met.

12/4/91
2 Cape Times, Friday

62 warders in assaults 253

Political Staff

ALTHOUGH 1 505 complaints were made last year by prisoners against warders, only five warders were found guilty in the courts and a further 57 were found guilty departmentally

The Minister of Correctional Services, Mr Kobie Coetsee, said of 71 warders charged with assault in public courts, only five were found guilty. The minister was replying to a question tabled by Mr Lester Fuchs (DP, Hillbrow)

Fewer prison assaults reported

(253) 12/4/91
A total of 1 052 complaints of alleged assaults had been made by prisoners against prison warders in 1990, as opposed to 1 952 complaints in 1989, Minister of Correctional Services Kobie Coetsee said yesterday.

In a written reply to a question from Lester Fuchs (DP Hillbrow), Mr Coetsee said that during 1989, 72 prison warders had been charged in pub-

lic courts of assault on prisoners, compared with 71 in 1990.

Of these, six had been found guilty in 1989 and five last year.

In 1989, however, 71 members out of 121 had stood trial and were found guilty on counts of assault on prisoners and were sentenced in terms of section 53(2) of the Prisons Act.

Last year 239 mem-

bers had stood trial on the same counts and 57 were found guilty.

"In respect of 1 929 of the total number of complaints, no substance could be found after investigation to lay charges against any member of the department," said Mr Coetsee.

In 1989 only one member of the service was dismissed and in 1990, two — Sapa . .

21 prisoners killed last year (253)

One member of the Department of Correctional Services had been killed and 41 seriously injured by prisoners during 1990, and 215 members had received medical treatment for minor injuries from assaults by prisoners, Minister of Correctional Services Kobie Coetsee said yesterday.

In a written reply to a question from Dave Dall-

ing (DP Sandton), he said one prisoner had been killed by a fellow prisoner in 1990 and 20 deaths were presumably caused by assaults by fellow prisoners. *stan 24/91*

The inquests had not yet been finalised.

"The Department of Correctional Services regards every complaint of an assault, no matter

how petty, in a serious light.

"Prisoners are daily given the opportunity to lodge any complaints or requests, and preventative measures — for example the re-allocation of sleeping quarters or working places — are instituted should it appear that there is reason to believe that a prisoner is threatened" — Sapa

Govt frees 119 prisoners in 'bid to hold high ground'

Star 13/4/91 253

THE Government is racing to meet the April 30 target for the release of prisoners and return of exiles, setting free a further 119 prisoners and indemnifying another 1,200 exiles yesterday.

This is the largest batch of political prisoners to be released

Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee's announcement yesterday is seen as a clear effort by the Government to keep the "moral high ground" following the ANC's controversial threat last week to pull out of negotiations

'Commendable'

ANC information chief Dr Pallo Jordan last night described the move as "commendable and indicative of the fact that the Government is moving towards realising the April 30 deadline"

Mr Coetsee's announcement means that, by the Government's definition, at least two-thirds of political prisoners have now been released and 73 percent of the indemnity applications have been granted

The release of all political prisoners is one of five conditions for the lifting of US sanc-

PETER FABRICIUS Political Correspondent

tions against South Africa

South Africa's ambassador to the US, Harry Schwarz, told US President George Bush this week that all five conditions would have been met by the third week of June

Mr Coetsee said yesterday that President de Klerk had granted special remission of sentence of up to almost four years to 41 political prisoners on Robben Island and 78 in other prisons

This would bring the total number of political prisoners released to 439 — more than two-thirds of Mr Coetsee's own estimate of a maximum of 600 political prisoners.

However the total releases to date fall well short of the ANC's estimate of 1,200 to 1,300 political prisoners

But Mr Coetsee pointed out in a separate statement this week that only 850 applications for the release of political prisoners had been received

He stressed, however, that

some of these might not be genuine political prisoners

The applications would have to be tested against the guidelines for defining political offences, agreed to by the Government and the ANC last week. And as further applications could be received, he could not estimate how many political prisoners were still being held

Despite these reservations, Mr Coetsee said in reply to a question in Parliament this week that 145 "security" prisoners were still on Robben Island

Training

His answer suggested that these were political prisoners, meaning that after yesterday's 41 releases, 105 political prisoners remain on the island.

Mr Coetsee also announced last night that a further 1,208 people had been granted indemnity for undergoing military training in contravention of the Terrorism Act or the Internal Security Act

This brought the total number of indemnifications so far to 3,692, or 73 percent of the total number of applications

'Prison gang told to sodomise me'

CP Correspondent

APR 14/1991
A MAN released from Helderstroom prison this week claims he was put in a cell with the infamous '28' prison gang who were told to rape him.

The claim was made by Derrick Basson who, with Derrick Grootboom, was released from Helderstroom prison in the Western Cape. They were each serving a seven-year sentence for sabotage.

The two Oudtshoorn men were imprisoned in 1986 and served part of

their sentence on Robben Island.

"Prisoners call Helderstroom the Place of Hell and Repression."

At first common prisoners tried to make life difficult for them, he said.

"But we persisted and politicised some of them."

But not before Basson was put in a cell with members of the '28' prison gang.

"I was put in the cell so that they could sodomise me. But I gained their respect and support," he said.

PRISONER RELEASES

PRESIDENT FW de Klerk is likely to agree to massive political prisoner releases in the next few days, according to *Southscan* magazine

While he is bound by last August's Pretoria Minute agreement with the ANC to free all the estimated 2 000 remaining political prisoners by April 30, the bulk of the releases will take place 10 days ahead of the deadline, with maximum publicity to bolster De Klerk's reformist image in advance of his trip to Europe

This is a well-established pattern with De Klerk, who smoothed his path into Europe on previous trips with major reform announcements

Before De Klerk's departure to Britain, Ireland and Denmark, a decree is likely on a further category of indemnity to enable more of the 20,000-plus political exiles, all of whom De Klerk has agreed to indemnify by the month-end deadline, to return home

Exile indemnities so far protect returning exiles only from prosecution for leaving South Africa illegally and undergoing military training

Thousands of guerrillas, and even ANC office workers in exile, are currently vulnerable to detention and prosecution for involvement in planning, administering or executing "operational activities"

One returnee, Japie Maphalala, was arrested when he flew into Jan Smuts airport on March 28 and has been charged with murder

Others apparently covered by indemnities, but facing charges, include three of the nine operatives in the ANC's Vula underground operation, against whom charges were dropped last month

Many more months of negotiations will pass before anti-apartheid and civil rights organisations finally win the release of all political prisoners and the right of all exiles to return. But before he flies out, De Klerk will have met most of his Pretoria Minute undertakings on prisoners

This is at least partially due to Pik

More prisoners likely to be freed in few days

CIPres 14/4/91
Botha and his Foreign Ministry officials, who have lobbied in recent weeks for a major image-boosting move in advance of the trip Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok's police generals argued, unsuccessfully, for a more modest gesture

Another group to benefit in the next few days will be the 46 political prisoners awaiting execution on Death Row in Pretoria

These are technically covered by the release-and-return agreement De Klerk signed last August in exchange for the ANC's unilateral ceasefire

In practice, however, De Klerk's negotiators have recognised the ANC's intense sensitivity on the Death Row prisoners and have used this to pressure for further concessions

A fortnight ago Pretoria upped the stakes allowing an appeal court hearing to go ahead, confirming death sentences on two ANC guerrillas

But some form of deal appears to be in the making.

Last month, ANC intelligence chief Jacob Zuma approached Zimbabwe Home Affairs Minister Sidney Sekeramayi on the possible release of three Zimbabwe nationals awaiting execution, and of a Zimbabwean and a British national serving 40-year sentences for actions carried out in Zimbabwe for the covert South African military CCB unit

The five are Mike Smith, Kevin Woods, Philip Conjwayo (condemned to death), Barry Borden and Sammy Beahan (the Briton jailed for attempting to free the other four)

ANC diplomacy last year won early release from a Zimbabwean jail for South African agent Odile Harrington

(253)
But the failure of Harrington's release, and that of Billy van Zyl, a South African police agent held by the ANC in Zambia, to elicit a meaningful response from Pretoria left Mugabe's government reluctant to follow up - particularly as a further "exchange" would involve Zimbabwe nationals

Anti-Mugabe Zimbabweans in South Africa are, however, confident the five will be freed before April 21 - an indication that Zuma's diplomacy may have worked

In South Africa, meanwhile, ANC sources expect action soon on underground leader Ronnie Kasrils, the only ANC national executive committee member still denied indemnity

With the withdrawal of charges in the Vula trial in which he was named as a co-conspirator, the government's justification for singling out Kasrils is wearing increasingly thin

The actual motive for wanting Kasrils appears to be to interrogate him on the location of ANC arms stores, cached before the August ceasefire, and the deployment of the ANC underground

But De Klerk's security chiefs have found other profitable uses in keeping Kasrils underground

In much the same way as the four-month detention of fellow-ANC national executive member and Vula operative Mac Maharaj served them last year, denying Kasrils indemnity appears to have worked for Pretoria as a permanent gauge of ANC political will

With the political temperature rising again, the ANC believes Kasrils will be indemnified by April 30. If he is not, decisive action is likely to force De Klerk's hand.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs

Corporal punishment

101 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Justice *Hansard 15/4/91*

- (1) How many males (a) under the age of 18 years, (b) aged 18 to 21 years and (c) aged 21 years and over in each race group were sentenced to corporal punishment in 1990, *(253)*
- (2) how many strokes were inflicted in respect of each category of persons?

B283E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

(1) The required information is not readily available. In an effort to be of assistance to the honourable member, the following statistics for the period July 1989 until June 1990 were obtained from the Central Statistical Services. Statistics regarding crimes are no longer separately kept for each race group.

| | |
|--|--------|
| Total number of persons sentenced to whipping only | 31 647 |
| Total number of persons sentenced to whipping and imprisonment (not suspended) | 84 |
| Total number of persons sentenced to whipping and imprisonment (partially suspended) | 4 975 |
| (2) The required information is not readily available | |

Legal training courses: participants

178 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Justice *Hansard 15/4/91*

- (a) How many persons participated in legal training courses organized by his Department in 1990, (b) how many such persons were (i)

White, (ii) Black, (iii) Coloured and (iv) Indian and (c) in which courses did these (i) Black, (ii) Coloured and (iii) Indian persons participate?

B488E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

- (a) 717
- (b) (i) 504
- (ii) 185
- (iii) 20
- (iv) 8
- (c) (i) Estate Controller 1
- Diploma in Registration of Deeds 2
- Traffic Officers 41
- Magistrate — Criminal Court 47
- Magistrate — Civil Court 10
- State Prosecutors 26
- Interpreters 52
- B Iuris 5
- Diploma Iuris 1
- (ii) Estate Controllers 3
- Diploma in Registration of Deeds 4
- State Prosecutors 8
- B Iuris 3
- Diploma Iuris 2
- (iii) Diploma in Registration of Deeds 3
- State Prosecutors 2
- B Iuris 2
- Diploma Iuris 1

Legal training branch: completed courses

229 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Justice *Hansard 15/4/91*

(a) How many (a) White, (b) Coloured, (c) Indian and (d) Black persons (i) attended and (ii) successfully completed courses in (aa) functional and (bb) legal training provided by the legal training branch of his Department in 1990?

B601E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

(aa) FUNCTIONAL TRAINING

- (a) White (i) 309 (ii) 309
- (b) Coloured (i) 15 (ii) 15



Chris Hani (right), commander of the ANC's military wing Umkhonto we Sizwe, hugs one of the 41 political prisoners released from Robben Island yesterday. Hani met the first batch of more than 100 prisoners due to be released this week as part of an agreement between the ANC and the Government.

41 more prisoners freed from Island

FORTY-ONE political prisoners were yesterday released from Robben Island in keeping with an agreement between the Government and the ANC.

Those released yesterday were serving sentences ranging from five to 30 years and were convicted between 1981 and 1990.

The ANC and the Government agreed in terms of the Pretoria Minute that all political prisoners be released and exiles indemnified by April 30.

The Robben Island 41 were met by Umkhonto we Sizwe chief of staff Mr Chris Hani. They were among 119 prisoners, the latest to be reprieved by State President FW de Klerk, who should all be released by today *Sowetan 17/4/91.*

The other 78 were serving sentences in other prisons throughout the country.

The Minister of Justice and of Correctional Services, Mr Kobie Coetsee, said in a statement last week that this brought to 439 those "who may be described as political prisoners"

By THEMBA MOLEFE

Also in terms of a notice published in the *Government Gazette* last Friday 1 208 more people who had applied for indemnity for undergoing military training have been granted indemnity.

This brings the total of those indemnified to 3 692, according to Coetsee's statement. Indemnity provides for immunity against prosecution in terms of the Terrorism Act of 1967 and the Internal Security Act of 1982.

Statement (253)

However, the Ministry of Justice has reiterated that the ANC's definition of a political prisoner does not necessarily conform to the Government's own definition.

In his statement last November 2 Coetsee said that every application for release the Ministry had received did not automatically render a prisoner "political".

Therefore all of the 439 released by

● To Page 2 ●

P.T.O

Prisoners freed

From Page 1

today fall within the Government's guidelines, which it says are contained in both the Pretoria and Grootes-Schuur Minutes *Sowetan* - 1/11/97. Coetsee's statement said: "It should be borne in mind that all those who can truly be described as political prisoners because their activities related to offences connected with previously banned organisations, have been released." (253)

ANC spokesman Saki Macozoma said the ANC had demanded the Ministry to reveal how many people arrested for unrest-related offences were in jail for the organisation to determine how many those it described as political were still imprisoned.

"What is happening is that the Government decides who to release and grant indemnity. There are more than 40 000 people waiting in exile and more than 2 000 inside the prisons," said Macozoma.

Those released from Robben Island yesterday are: Clement Baatjes, Sonwabo Balizulu, Thembisile Batyi, Anwa Dramat, Layton Fibi, Peter Jacobs, Jekwa Kweza, Abraham Lentsoane, Jerry Lentsoane, Khaya Libazi, Jacob Lithlakanyane, Solomzi Lwonde, Jerome Maake, Godfrey Marubungwana, Sabelo Matomane, Harold Matsidhi, Lancelot Mazibuko, Welcome Mhlongo, Musk Mkhwarubi, Peter Mntsi, Sechaba Mohloli, OQ Msomi, Vuyisile Msweli, Dumsani Mwandla, JM Ngobese, Sibusiso Ngwenya, RD Nokanywa, Daniel Ntsoseng, Vejaynand Ramlakan, Peter Rammekwa, Abram Sebopela, Thapelo Sekonyane, Lawrence Seleko, Joe Sehlapelo, Sylvester Siboza, Vusumzi Sindane, Frank Thabane, Anthony Tsotsobe, Michael Tumane, Mzohisi Wabana and Theodore Zwane.

Judges probe more indemnity claims

GOVERNMENT's committee of judges set up to consider indemnities for sentenced political prisoners is examining the claims to freedom of 15 people — most of them Umkhonto we Sizwe members

A source close to the committee said the cases of the father of recently reprieved ANC bomber Robert McBride, Derek McBride, as well as MK member Gordon Webster were being examined

Derek McBride is serving 12 years on Robben Island for attempting to spring Webster from a Maritzburg hospital. His son was among 17 death row prisoners reprieved this week

The committee comprises Appeal Court judge Mr Justice Steyn as well as former

PATRICK BULGER

judges Mr Justice Leon and Mr Justice Solomon (35) (253)

Another two cases were being examined. They were recently released Umkhonto member Ebrahim Ebrahim's co-accused, Acton Dladla and Mandla Maseko. They were convicted in 1989 for terrorism and treason respectively resulting from landmine blasts in the eastern Transvaal in 1986. B/day 18/4/91

The committee — set up earlier this year to consider "difficult" cases and make recommendations to President F.W. de Klerk — has not yet announced the outcome of any of the cases forwarded to it.

CAPL. Tm B 18/4/91 253 252

Red Cross resumes SA prison visits

THE International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has resumed visits to prisoners in South African prisons, the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Kobie Coetsee, said yesterday.

The ICRC recommenced their visits — which first began in the 1960s — on April 15 at the invitation of the government, he said.

Meanwhile, the SA Council of Churches yesterday expressed joy at the state's decision to commute the death penalty for 17 prisoners — 14 of them political

— to life imprisonment

"We are jubilant that people are being given the chance to continue life during which they may re-evaluate their position and role in society," said the SACC.

The Human Rights Commission also applauded the move and urged President F W de Klerk to commute all death sentences and release all political prisoners unconditionally.

Mrs Paula McBride, wife of Magoo's Bar bomber Robert McBride, was due at Pretoria

Central Prison yesterday to give her husband a hug for the first time since their marriage.

And Church Square mass killer Barend Strydom will also be briefly re-united with his wife and family. "A moment I have been longing for," his wife Karen said on Tuesday night.

McBride's co-accused, Ms Greta Apelgren, said "Robert had confidence he wouldn't die

"Mr De Klerk is a merciful man. It gives me hope that there will be more great change in this country" — Sapa

Mandela steps in with MK

w/ Mand 19/4-25/4/91

(253)

By GAYE DAVIS Cape Town

NELSON MANDELA visited Robben Island last Friday to persuade 25 cadres of the African National Congress' military wing, Umkhonto weSizwe, to sign indemnity forms.

The ANC deputy president made an impassioned appeal to the 25, who had consistently refused to apply for indemnity.

His "decisive" intervention was confirmed this week by Umkhonto weSizwe chief of staff Chris Hani, who was present when 41 prisoners — the largest group so far — were released from Robben Island.

None of the 25 were among those released. Their stand created serious problems for an ANC leadership already under fire from supporters for becoming involved in a cumbersome indemnity process.

Underpinning the prisoners' refusal was the conviction that ANC negotiators erred badly by compromising on the Harare Declaration-linked

demand for a blanket, unconditional amnesty covering political prisoners and the return of exiles, and allowing the release and return processes to be governed by the Indemnity Act. In their view, this accorded the government a legitimacy they rejected.

One of the prisoners explained his stand. "I have been fighting against apartheid all my life and now I have to ask for a pardon from the very same system. That removes the very moral base that has been sustaining me through the hardest times of struggle." But after Mandela's intervention last Friday, the prisoner — along with his 24 comrades — decided to sign the indemnity forms.

● Among the 41 released on Tuesday was Anthony Tsotsobe (35), one of the three so-called "Sasol bombers" whose death sentences, imposed in 1981, were later commuted to life imprisonment. His co-accused, David Moise and Johannes Shabangu, are still on the island.

JJOI FHO

96 freed as Govt sprints for deadline

ANOTHER 96 political prisoners are to be freed and 235 political offenders indemnified, as the Government continues to speed towards the April 30 deadline for the release of all political offenders

Minister of Justice and Correctional Services Kobie Coetsee said yesterday the prisoners would go free as soon as possible

This will bring the total of political prisoners released to 535 and the number of indemnifications to 3 927. Mr Coetsee said last week that 850 convicts had so far applied for release as political prisoners while 5 056 people had applied for indemnity.

Those indemnified in a Government Gazette yesterday included 220 people who left South Africa without valid travel documents, or through an illegal port, and 15 who were indemnified individual-

Star 20/4/91
253
PETER FABRICIUS
Political Correspondent

ly for more serious offences

Among the latter were two right wingers, Deon Rautenbach (26) — arrested for causing explosions at the United States embassy, National Party offices and Melrose House in Pretoria last year — and Gerhardus Petrus Minnaar (47)

Arson

Minnaar was indemnified for involvement in arson at the Roman Catholic Church and other buildings at Boekenhoutfontein between June 22 and 23 last year, importing, supplying or possessing explosives, helping to plan an explosion at the Frans Vos Building in Rustenburg, and helping

right-winger "Piet Skiet" Rudolph when he was on the run

Others who received individual indemnity were

- Jabu Thomas Nhlapo (24) for possessing an automatic pistol and 212 rounds of ammunition in Soghanguve on April 18 last year
- Stanford Chipu Moagi (34) for his part in the 1976 uprisings
- Tony Klaasen (17) for public violence and contravening the Explosives Act in Kimberley
- Ernest Jabulane Kambule (16) Piet Moloken (18), David Jabulani Rocolo (18), John Mafabatho (19) and Mbutona Christian Makoatle (16), convicted in Vredefort, Free State, of arson or malicious damage to property
- Three youths of the Banyane family and Bethuel Kabi and Petrus Shomolekae charged with public violence on March 19 last year in Bloemfontein

'Sun City'²⁵³ denies food apartheid

By THEMBA KHUMALO
2/14/91

RACIAL discrimination is rife at Johannesburg Prison where white convicts are treated better than their black counterparts and are served better food.

A *City Press* investigation found that white prisoners are served meat almost daily while blacks get it only two or three times a week.

A black woman who recently visited her son at the prison, known as "Sun City", complained that her son looked thin and depressed. The son complained about the poor quality of food.

A cook dishes out food for black prisoners while whites dish up for themselves in a kitchenette provided with chairs and tables. Blacks have to eat standing.

A statement by Correctional Services said all prisoners, irrespective of race, received three balanced meals a day in accordance with international nutritional standards.

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Prisoner deported after his release

Clipped 2/14/91
By THEMBA KHUMALO

FORMER political prisoner Paul Lehloenya was deported to Lesotho this week - a week after being given amnesty and released

Lehloenya was re-detained as an "illegal" immediately after his release and was held at John Vorster Square police station in Johannesburg while his deportation was being arranged

Lehloenya spent nearly eight years on Robben Island after being convicted for high treason and terrorism, and was later moved to Johannesburg Prison. Lehloenya was arrested outside the Johannesburg Prison gates last week, immediately after his release

ANC spokesman Saki Macozoma said. "The police told us he was being held under the Aliens Act. We find it cruel that a man should be released from one prison and sent to another.

"We feel he should have been released into the custody of the ANC leadership. The authorities knew well in advance about his pending release and they should have facilitated his deportation beforehand."

Star 23/4/91

AAM tells FW to end violence

By Alan Robinson
Star Bureau

LONDON — The Anti-Apartheid Movement has told President de Klerk to go home and stop township violence

The AAM chairman, Labour MP Robert Hughes, issued a statement saying the peace process was at risk because of Mr de Klerk's "broken promises"

"With just days left before the April 30 deadline by which political prisoners should have been released and exiles free to return home, Mr de Klerk should be in South Africa to ensure that the agreements he reached with the ANC are honoured, instead of arrogantly strutting around Europe claiming the mantle of the undertaker of apartheid"

Alleging that only a handful of political prisoners had so far been released, Mr Hughes asked how the black majority could be expected to trust Mr de Klerk's claim that he wanted a new democratic South Africa "when he breaks his promises on a matter as simple as the release of political prisoners"

633 prisoners escaped, but 110 000 were behind bars

Star 23/4/91

Political Staff

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A total of 663 prisoners escaped from South Africa's jails in the 12-month period ending on June 30 last year.

This was revealed in the report of the Prisons Service for the period July 1 1989 to June 30 1990, tabled in Parliament yesterday. In the previous year there had been 575 escapes.

The 663 escapes consisted of 115 from prison institutions, 501 from teams of workers outside the walls of prisons, and 47 while prisoners were being escorted to and from courts and hospitals and during transfers.

Investigate

Each escape was thoroughly and objectively investigated to identify shortcomings and to introduce remedial and preventive measures, the report said.

On June 30 1990 there was designed accommodation for 82 286 prisoners. The occupation level was 130,3 percent.

On July 1 1980 the daily average prison population was 100 533 and on June 30 1990 it

was 110 194. The prisoners were looked after by 21 004 staff members, with 2 052 staff posts unfilled.

Each prisoner cost taxpayers R18,61 a day. In 1985 the cost was R10,08 a day, the report said.

About 220 members of staff and 3 000 prisoners were responsible for preparing and serving about 117 million meals in 206 prison kitchens.

During the year under review, judges paid 63 visits to prisons, including visits to detainees held in terms of the emergency regulations, and magistrates paid 615 visits.

The press made 1 003 inquiries and 14 visits to prisons. Also, 84 foreign visitors, 396 senior students, 699 members of organisations and societies, and other visitors actively concerned with the problem of crime had visited jails.

In all, 9 310 prisoners were involved in education and training programmes, and they received 2 365 certificates. Of these, 6 476 prisoners were involved in vocational and skills training, and 110 qualified as

artisans.

As prisoners experienced problems after their release, a practical and purposeful preparation for release programme was finalised in the year under review, and was experimentally implemented at Leeuwkop prison to help prisoners reintegrate into their communities.

Legislation was passed to allow a day parole system. Prisoners who had served a very long term of imprisonment could be released on day parole as part of a controlled release process to look for work or go to work, and return to the prison in the evening.

Counteracted

The privilege system was revised with a view to improving the privileges that strengthened family ties and counteracted the effects of being in an institution, the report said.

Group privileges were also improved and TV and video shows were made available to all prisoners to prevent idleness and frustration.

ANC prisoners might go on hunger strike

DARIUS SANAI

253

IT HAD become "very likely" that a large number of ANC prisoners would embark on hunger strikes next week if demands for their release were not met, ANC sources and lawyers said yesterday.

ANC sources — who declined to be named — said there was a "very strong mood" among a majority of prisoners that a hunger strike was the only course of action "if the government failed to live up to the promises of the Pretoria Minute".

Government undertook to release political prisoners by April 30 in terms of the minute, but there is still disagreement over which prisoners should be defined as "political" *By day 23/4/77*.

The ANC says there are 1 352 such prisoners, while government puts the figure still to be freed at about 150.

Lawyers representing a number of the prisoners said yesterday prisoners increasingly favoured a hunger strike "as it became apparent that not all of them will be released".

They said it was impossible to calculate exactly how many prisoners would join in the strike, but most reports suggested it could be up to 1 000.

The 14 death row prisoners who had their death sentences commuted last week are not believed to be among the prisoners threatening to go on hunger strike.

ANC spokesman Gill Marcus said yesterday the organisation was not discussing the issue with government, but a meeting would be held today between the ANC and prisoners' representatives.

Correctional Services spokesman Brig Erika van Zyl said last night the department "could not comment at this stage on hypothetical questions".

corpses out

FRITZ BULGER

Row looms over exiles, prisoners

Sowetan 23/4/91

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A CONFRONTATION is looming between the African National Congress and the Government over the release of political prisoners and the return of exiles by April 30.

The ANC said yesterday the date agreed upon and contained in the Pretoria Minute was a deadline and demanded the release of all political prisoners and return of all exiles by then.

The Ministry of Justice told *Sowetan* April 30 was a target date - not a deadline.

Guidelines

The Groote Schuur and Pretoria Minutes signed by the ANC and the Government last year set out guidelines to removing obstacles to constitutional negotiations.

The Pretoria accord of last July 6 provided for the appointment of a working group comprising representatives from both sides to draw up a plan for the release of ANC-related prisoners and granting of indemnity to those in exile.

ANC legal representative and member of the working group Mr Math-

By THEMBA MOLEFE

ew Phosa said yesterday: "The ANC is pessimistic. The Internal Security Act is still there. Also, it is the Government's obligation to open the prison doors and allow all exiles to return in terms of the agreement.

"They could have released all political prisoners. We had 1 632 names, probably more, by December last year if they had intended going by the schedule," Phosa said.

He dismissed as "absolute nonsense" the Ministry of Justice's statement that April 30 was not a deadline.

The latest date envisaged for the completion of the total task was set as not later than April 30 1991.

"The Government also agreed to amend legislation to repeal the Internal Security Act which was also seen by the ANC as an obstacle to negotiations. On April 19 the Ministry announced the approval of the release of 96 prisoners it said would be freed as soon as possible.

That brought the total to 215 of people released

in the past two weeks alone.

And also last Friday 16 more people were granted indemnity and could re-enter the country from exile. This accounted for 73 percent of applications, 3 692, received for indemnity from undergoing military training or prosecution in terms of the Internal Security Act of 1982 or Terrorism Act.

Appeal

Ministry of Justice spokesman Major E Jones said: "The indemnity and release of prisoners is on course as contained in the accords.

"We are dealing with an average 96 000 prisoners a day and have appealed to everyone through the media, and even Lawyers for Human Rights to help in processing the release of those who qualify in terms of the agreement.

"We have received only 850 applications for release so far and some of these were of chancers, those jailed for crimes such as house-breaking and robbery," said Jones.

She said it was the duty of the ANC to see to it that its indemnified members returned to the country and not of the Government.

200 or 1 300 still to be released?

Staff Reporters and Sapa

253

Star 24/4/91

LONDON — The number of political prisoners still to be released was below 200 and the Government was adhering to the framework of the Pretoria Minute agreement with the ANC, President de Klerk said yesterday

Answering questions at a press conference on the second day of his European tour, he said the Government would prove, round about the April 30 deadline, that it had held up its side of the agreements

"We dispute claims that there are still 1 300 so-called political prisoners held," he said

In Johannesburg the ANC and human rights spokesmen disputed Mr de Klerk's figure

Human Rights Commission

(HRC) spokesman Dr Max Coleman said nothing less than the throwing open of prison gates and an end to all political trials would enable the Government to meet the April 30 deadline

Speaking at a press conference in Braamfontein, Dr Coleman said it was impossible for the Government to meet the deadline

At its national consultative conference in Johannesburg in December, the ANC threatened to review its position on talks with the Government if political prisoners were not released and exiles not allowed to return home by April 30

A 67-page report, "Political imprisonment in South Africa", compiled and published jointly by the HRC and the International Defence and Aid Fund, has

said that up to 1 361 political prisoners were still in jail as of April 2

The report said its definition of political prisoners included not only those whom the Government classified as security prisoners, numbering only a few hundred, but unrest prisoners, numbering a couple of thousand

Dr Coleman said more political prisoners had been released in the past two weeks than in the past six or eight months

The head of the ANC's political education department, Raymond Suttner, said the Government had abused the release of political prisoners for its own purposes. The fact that violence always subsided when President de Klerk was abroad, as was the case now, pointed to the police's involvement

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ANC reaction
to release issue

is 'undecided'

W DARIUS SANAI 253

THE ANC had not yet decided how it would react if government did not meet its demand for the release of all political prisoners by April 30

"We have not yet decided what to do it is a process of consultation," ANC spokesman Gill Marcus said yesterday

The ANC threatened to break off negotiations with government if all political prisoners were not released and exiles allowed to return by April 30

ANC sources have confirmed there is widespread support for a hunger strike among remaining political prisoners

Meanwhile, Justice Ministry spokesman Maj Elsa Jones yesterday described as "nonsense" ANC allegations that government was deliberately delaying the release of prisoners

Marcus said the ANC would make its plans public "when the time is right", although she declined to say when this would be

NEW ROW OVER prisoners

Government,
human rights
groups differ

Sowetan 24/4/91. (253)

By THEMBA MOLEFE

A MIGHTY row over who is a political prisoner in South Africa and how many of them there are has broken out less than a week before the April 30 deadline to release them all.

State President Mr FW de Klerk said in London yesterday that the true number of political prisoners still to be released in terms of the Pretoria Minute accord with the ANC was "well below" 200. Human rights organisations said the number of political prisoners still behind bars was 1 146 and another 1 000 could well be added to that.

In the light of the growing row between the Government and human rights organisations, how would you define a political prisoner?

Telephone Radio Metro DJ Tim Moodie-today and tell him live between 4.30 and 5pm. The hotline number is 714-8063. Listen to the Sowetan/Radio Metro Talkback programme on mediumwave at 576 KHz.

Mr Horst Klenschmidt, director of the International Defence and Aid Fund (IDAF) said "We have irrefutable evidence that the 1 146 names are drawn from political trials we monitored. We cannot understand how De Klerk can make such a statement. We are amazed."

But De Klerk said, "We absolutely dispute claims there are still 1 300 so-called political

• To Page 2



President FW de Klerk listens to a question during a Press conference in London yesterday. De Klerk, in London on an official visit to Britain, appealed for private investment in South Africa, saying economic development is crucial to the country's political progress. See report on Page 3. Pic Associated Press

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CERTAVEN "A"
MENTHOL FRESH TASTE

P.T.O.

Dispute over number of prisoners

From Page 1

prisoners being held" He said the Government was fully up to date with procedures to meet the April 30 deadline.

Also in London yesterday, former Robben Island prisoner Naledi Tsiki, in Britain to publicise the prisoners' plight, said the Government had in many cases "criminalised", in terms of ordinary law, people sentenced in political trials so that they need not be released in terms of the existing accords.

Meanwhile, locally the Human Rights Commission yesterday said 1 146 political prisoners still had to be released before April 30.

In a special report co-sponsored by the IDAF, entitled *Political Imprisonment in South Africa*, the HRC lists 1 361 people as political prisoners still behind bars on April 2.

The HRC accused the Government of creating a "welter" of bureaucratic paperwork for application for release.

The report was also published by the IDFA in London yesterday.

The report said: "Since April 2 a further 119 have been released, and the imminent release of 96 has been announced.

Groote Schuur Minute

"This last-minute spurt should reduce the list to 1 146 persons, still a very considerable number and one which does not even include those prisoners still to be identified, perhaps another 1 000," the report said.

The HRC said "Nothing less than a simple throwing open of prison gates to all those with a clear aim to being in prison because of their resistance to apartheid, will bring the issue to an end. And of course the cessation of political trials which serve to create yet more political prisoners."

The HRC report said a small number of prisoners qualified for release after the unbanning of the ANC, PAC and SACP on February 2 1990.

The HRC also charged that the Government did not honour the spirit of the Groote Schuur Minute of May 1990 and Pretoria Minute of August 1990 regarding the definition and timetable for the release of prisoners.

"The anticipated rapid and large-scale releases did not materialise, and it soon became clear that the Government was delaying the release of prisoners as a counter to mass protest action."

The Ministry of Justice said on April 19 that 96 prisoners would be freed soon. That brought the total to 215 of people released in the past two weeks alone.

And also last Friday 16 more people were granted indemnity and could re-enter the country from exile. This accounted for 73 percent of applications, the Ministry said. Nearly 3 700 applications had been received for indemnity from undergoing military training or prosecution in terms of the Internal Security Act of 1982 or Terrorism Act of 1967.

Case-by-case 'audit' of politicals

Political Staff (253)

CAPE TOWN — The Government is engaged in a case-by-case "audit" with prominent human rights lawyers in a bid to reconcile differences between it and the ANC on the numbers of political prisoners

Closer consultations are now taking place as Government accelerates the freeing of political prisoners and indemnity for exiles before the April 30 deadline it agreed to eight months ago

And four people nominated by the ANC — Arthur Chaskelson, SC, Thembile Skweyiya, SC, Dullah Omar and Dr Max Coleman — have been appointed by the Department of Justice to advise three judges con-

Star 25/4/91
sidering indemnities. Their names were gazetted last night

They will assist Mr Justice Steyn, Mr Justice Leon and Mr Justice Solomon

Also advising the judicial panels will be A C le Roux, SC, J S Rossouw and Mrs Jenny Friedman.

Hastening the process further last night, Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee announced a fourth category of exiles and prisoners automatically eligible for indemnity

The new category would include people who perpetrated the following offences, with a political motive and without causing death or injury: High treason, Internal Security Act contraventions such as hold-

ing illegal gatherings, unlawful possession of arms, ammunition and explosives, trespassing, arson, malicious damage to property and public violence.

Mr Coetsee said this would result in the finalisation of the majority of applications for indemnity so far

Mr Coetsee also announced the release of 124 more political prisoners, 44 of them from Robben Island.

This brings the total freed to 659 and he said today scarcely 60 political prisoners remained on the island

Mr Coetsee said recently about 850 prisoners had applied for release as political prisoners, however 160 ordinary criminals "took a chance"

Political prisoners, who are they?

253

ANY black man arrested for any activity with the sole purpose of liberating himself and his people is a political prisoner, but a white who kills blacks is just a "cold blooded murderer"

This was the definition for a political prisoner given by many Sowetan/Radio Metro Talkback callers yesterday

However, they disagreed on the extent of the use of violence

Bongani Mthembu of



Sebokeng defined a political prisoner as any person arrested for involvement in fighting a certain system of government

"This includes those arrested for looting, burning and damaging proper-

ty and necklace murders during riots," he said

"This includes those held for their activities in school, rent and consumer boycotts as the fight is waged on all fronts"

Joe Makhubedu of Nelspruit said we could not rely on the Government's definition

"(Robert) Sobukwe and (Nelson) Mandela were described as criminals while in jail. It was only after Mandela's release that the Government conceded he was a

political prisoner"

However, Zade of Johannesburg said those who engaged in violence "in the name of democracy" were not political prisoners

"They should not be pardoned because they have taken lives. Politics is a battle of wits, not aggression," he said.

This was countered by Chris of Mofolo who said it was justified to use violence against institutions that "promote and enforce apartheid"

Sowetan 25/4/91

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs

Petitions of personnel to prison authorities

143 Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Correctional Services

(1) Whether any members of his Department presented certain petitions to the authorities at various prisons in South Africa between 21 and 23 March 1990, if so, (a) what were the grievances stated in these petitions and (b) what steps have been taken in regard to the grievances so stated,

(2) whether any inquiries have been instituted against the above-mentioned members, if so, (a) how many and (b) in respect of each such inquiry, (i) what is the name of each prison and town where it was instituted, (ii) when was it instituted and (iii) what are the names of the members against whom it was instituted,

(3) (a) how many of these inquiries have been completed and (b) when is it anticipated that the outstanding inquiries will be completed,

(4) in respect of each completed inquiry, (a) what was the outcome and (b) how many members (i) were dismissed, (ii) were demoted in rank and (iii) had their number of recognised years of service reduced?

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

(1) Yes

(a) and (b) Since the second half of March 1990 until the end of May 1990 members at 14 different prisons struck and raised grievances in connection with alleged discrimination in respect of work, living quarters, social and outdoor activities,

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

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facilities on prison reserves as well as allegations that the existing communication channel does not function effectively and that Commanding Officers are not accessible enough to hear members' grievances. Apart from immediate actions by Commanding Officers to deal with afore-mentioned grievances, the matters which were at policy level or in respect of which economic realities necessitated restrictions have already received attention as part of the macro plan regarding the personnel policy which since then is being implemented progressively and through which deficiencies which existed were dealt with

(2) Yes

(a) Inquiries against 415 (four hundred and fifteen) members at 12 (twelve) different prisons have been instituted

(b) (i) and (ii)

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Stutterheim | —11 June 1990 |
| Fort Beaufort | —12 June 1990 |
| King William's Town | —14 June 1990 |
| East London | —15 June 1990 |
| Queenstown | —13 June 1990 |
| Pollsmoor | —18 June 1990 |
| (Cape Town) | —18 June 1990 |
| Brandvlei | —6 June 1990 |
| (Worcester) | —4 June 1990 |
| Mossel Bay | —4 June 1990 |
| J C Steyn | —11 June 1990 |
| (Kirkwood) | —13 June 1990 |
| St Albans (Port Elizabeth) | —8 June 1990 |
| Grahamstown | —18 June 1990 |
| Johannesburg | —18 June 1990 |

(iii) Information on a member's personal file is dealt with confidentially within an employer/employee relationship. It is policy not to make such information public or to comment thereon. The number of members involved at each of the prisons are as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Stutterheim | 11 |
| Fort Beaufort | 13 |
| King William's Town | 36 |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| East London | 67 |
| Queenstown | 25 |
| Pollsmoor (Cape Town) | 77 |
| Brandvlei (Worcester) | 9 |
| Mossel Bay | 10 |
| J C Steyn (Kirkwood) | 7 |
| St Albans (Port Elizabeth) | 28 |
| Grahamstown | 29 |
| Johannesburg | 103 |

(3) (a) Inquiries against 127 (one hundred and twenty-seven) members have already been finalised

(b) Mossel Bay—inquiries have been completed and the recommendations of the presiding officer are awaited

Pollsmoor—the inquiries resumed on 28 March 1991 after initially being delayed by a court application

Inquiries at the following places are being delayed due to court applications

Queenstown—motion application was placed on the roll for 20 May 1991

Brandvlei (Worcester)—application has been made for the withdrawal of the presiding officer

J C Steyn (Kirkwood)—trial date for motion application is awaited

St Albans (Port Elizabeth)—trial date for motion application is awaited

Grahamstown—findings of the motion application are awaited

Johannesburg—findings of the motion application are awaited

Thus far the delay in the completion of the inquiries was mainly caused by defendants raising objections on various legal technicalities, requesting postponements in order to enable the various legal representatives to study the cases and bringing motion applications against investigating officers who were not prepared to recuse themselves, etc. There is understanding for anxiety on the part of defendants that inquiries may lead to their dismissal. Nevertheless, defendants may rest assured that the process will be dealt with with great responsibility and with sufficient opportunities to make representations and to lodge appeals to the Minister in cases of dismissal. During the process of the inquiry defendants may for example be assisted by their legal representatives. Furthermore in the cases of the members concerned, provision has been made that should dismissal be considered, the defendants will be informed of such intentions in order to give them the opportunity to make representations to the Commissioner. In cases where the decision is nevertheless to dismiss a person and an appeal is lodged to the Minister, arrangements have been made for the suspension of the dismissal pending the outcome of the appeal. The afore-mentioned indicates a very reasonable approach and members should also on their part give their full co-operation in order to finalise this process as soon as possible

(4) (a) and (b)

(i) The following number of members as indicated at each prison were found to be unfit to remain in the service of the Department of Correctional Services and were discharged

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Fort Beaufort | 1 (One) |
| King William's Town | 4 (Four) |
| East London | 13 (Thirteen) |

(ii) Two (2) members at both King William's Town and East London were demoted in rank

(iii) The following number of members as indicated at each prison were demoted in seniority (this does not comprise a reduction in the number of recognised years of service but only a demotion in respect of their position of seniority within the specific rank group)

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Stutterheim | 11 (Eleven) |
| Fort Beaufort | 12 (Twelve) |

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Hansard
25/4/91

King William's
Town
East London 30 (Thirty)
52 (Fifty-two)

Own Affairs

Grey Schools: contract

47 Mr E W TRENT asked the Minister of Welfare, Housing and Works

- (1) Whether a contract for renovations and/or other works was recently awarded in respect of the Grey Schools in Port Elizabeth, if so, (a) to whom, (b) for what work and (c) what is the value of the contract,
- (2) whether tenders were invited for this work, if so, (a) (i) how many tenders were received and (ii) from whom and (b) what were the amounts involved, if not, why not,
- (3) whether the company to whom the contract at the said schools was awarded has been awarded any other contracts by his Department, if so, (a) where and (b) to what value,
- (4) whether, in respect of such other contracts, any civil court judgments in connection with debt have been brought against this company, if so, what are the relevant details?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE, HOUSING AND WORKS

- (1) Yes, two contracts have been awarded to
- (a) Messrs Koen's Executive Contractors CC, PO Box 7692, Newtonpark, Port Elizabeth,
- (b) for the new library centre,
- (c) R1 816 618,10, and
- (a) Messrs J Greyling Building Contractor, 120 Church Road, Walmer, Port Elizabeth,
- (b) for the renovations and alterations to the hostel (Grey Schools),
- (c) R187 000,00
- (2) Yes, tenders were invited for both services
- (a) (i) Six tenders were received for Contract no 1 (the new library centre), namely
- (a) and (b) —
- (ii) — Koen's Executive Contractors CC, PO Box 7692, Newtonpark, Port Elizabeth
Tender price R1 816 618,10
- Bouwer & Senekal Construction, PO Box 10541, Linden Grange, Port Elizabeth
Tender price R2 364 498,00
- Dekon Construction (Pty) Ltd, PO Box 1036, Port Elizabeth
Tender price R2 387 832,00
- Budget Construction, PO Box 3758, Noordeinde, Port Elizabeth
Tender price R2 576 000,00
- SBT Construction (Eastern Cape), PO Box 2014, Port Elizabeth
Tender price R2 769 990,00
- Macdonald Construction, PO Box 27196, Green Acres, Port Elizabeth
Tender price R2 785 000,00
- (a) (i) Four tenders were received for Contract no 2 (renovations and alterations to the hostel), namely
- J Greyling Building Contractor, 120 Church Road, Walmer, Port Elizabeth
Tender price R187 000,00
- Reymer Construction, PO Box 7418, Newtonpark, Port Elizabeth
Tender price R216 000,00
- Williams Scott Contractors (Pty) Ltd, PO Box 1800, Port Elizabeth
Tender price R239 970,00
- Elfour Construction, PO Box 1047, Uitenhage
Tender price R248 000,00
- (3) Yes, contracts have been awarded to the following contractors since 1 January 1989
- Messrs Koen's Executive Contractors CC

QUESTIONS UNDER NAME OF MEMBER

- Abraham, Mr M—
Own Affairs
Education and Culture, 725, 726
Health Services and Welfare, 706
- Abrahams, Mr T—
General Affairs
Foreign Affairs, 375
- Andrew, Mr K M—
General Affairs
Education and Training, 29, 121, 122, 301, 312, 879
Finance, 778, 779, 785, 1051
Home Affairs, 442
Justice, 562
Law and Order, 196, 1057, 1136
National Education, 886
Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing, 105, 212
Trade and Industry and Tourism, 458
- Own Affairs
Education and Culture, 46, 115, 120, 158, 222, 249, 264, 277, 611, 1071, 1165
Health Services, 327
Welfare, Housing and Works, 227, 326, 997
- Botha, Dr W J—
General Affairs
Administration, 907
Finance, 21, 379
Foreign Affairs, 96, 741
Mineral and Energy Affairs and Public Enterprises, 361
National Health, 96, 389, 763
Transport, 210
- Bruwer, Mr A A B—
General Affairs
Agriculture, 370
Defence, 307, 308
Law and Order, 439
Trade and Industry and Tourism, 440
- Burrows, Mr R M—
General Affairs
Administration and Economic Co-ordination, 157, 166, 817
Development Aid, 596
Education and Training, 247, 385, 785, 879, 880, 1005, 1006, 1159
Environment Affairs, 1114
Finance, 211, 247, 305, 314
Law and Order, 445, 707, 719, 729
National Education, 28, 107, 108, 595, 737, 738, 1013, 1079, 1091, 1160, 1173
National Health, 1023
Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing, 622
Regional Development, 196
- Own Affairs
Education and Culture, 43, 44, 64, 164, 222, 223, 227, 248, 249, 250, 277, 324, 387, 471, 472, 658, 758, 760, 761, 806, 898, 899, 910, 966, 971, 972, 1013, 1014, 1028, 1169
- Welfare, Housing and Works, 613, 652, 655
- Carlisle, Mr R V—
General Affairs
Foreign Affairs, 456, 583
Home Affairs, 315, 316, 887
Justice, 786
Law and Order, 580, 1142, 1145
State President, 858

Not all prisoners, exiles ANC Azapo

By Kaizer Nyatumba
Political Staff

8/Jan
26/4/91

Azanian People's Organisation president Pandelani Nefolovhodwe has expressed concern over what he sees as the Government's attempts to restrict the definition of political prison-

ers and exiles to ANC members only.

In a statement, Mr Nefolovhodwe said it had now become necessary for Azapo to get involved in the controversy surrounding the release of political prisoners and the return of exiles

(253)

This, Mr Nefolovhodwe said, had been necessitated by the fact that it appeared that political prisoners and exiles were about to be "defined as those described in the Pretoria Minute and, by implication, only those who belong to the African National Congress"

Red Cross checks for political

Star 26/4/91
Political Correspondent

The International Committee of the Red Cross has completed visits to all South African prisons to ensure that the Government has not omitted any political prisoners for possible release by the April 30 deadline, Justice and Correctional Services Minister Kobie Coetsee announced at a press conference in Cape Town yesterday.

Although the visit by the ICRC to prisons was announced earlier, it was

not made absolutely clear — as Mr Coetsee has now done — that it would be doing a thorough monitoring of the release of political prisoners.

"We have thrown open our prisons for visits by the ICRC, and they have been visiting them for the past fortnight."

They had just completed their tour and it was possible they have "sensitised" prisoners to the possibility of amnesty, so further applications for amnesty could be ex-

pected. (253)

The ICRC had been visiting South African prisons for a number of years, and resumed their visits recently at the Government's invitation.

Mr Coetsee also repeated an earlier announcement that ANC bomber Robert McBride, right-wing mass murderer Barend Strydom, and other serious offenders could still apply to the judicial indemnity committee for release, even though President de Klerk had rejected their applications to him.

Star 26/4/91

Thousands more will be set free

● From Page 1

plied for and

253

- 3 956 had been disposed of by category.
- 55 had been individually indemnified.
- 90 had been refused or referred to the judicial Indemnity Committee.
- 400 had been referred back to the ANC, but many could be reconsidered for indemnity under the new category of mainly unrest-related offences announced on Wednesday.

● About 600 were already included in this category.

● 526 applications were still being finalised.

Mr Coetsee said this meant that if the ANC co-operated, 1 526 indemnities could be granted today or tomorrow.

This would dispose of most of the applications.

'General amnesty' announced

Thousands more to be set free

Star 26/4/91
By Peter Fabricius
Political Correspondent

Thousands of political and common prisoners are to go free by May 1 in a "general amnesty" announced by Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee yesterday.

In what the Government regards as a big leap towards meeting the April 30 deadline for releasing all political prisoners, Mr Coetsee said another 60 political offenders would be released today or tomorrow, and between 100 and 200 were being processed, under the new category of mainly unrest-related offences announced on Wednesday.

This would leave only about 200 political prisoners in jail who would be considered for release individually.

Mr Coetsee said he believed that after this, the Government "would find accord" with the representatives of the Human Rights Commission (HRC) and Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR). These two organisations were serving with the Government on an audit committee to try to agree on the correct number of political prisoners.

But the HRC immediately issued a statement saying the Government was regarding the race as finished "when in reality there are another three laps to go".

Offenders

It said that after the 638 releases announced up to Wednesday, there would still be about 1 000 political prisoners in jail.

Mr Coetsee also said 152 political offenders not convicted could be granted indemnity over the next 24 to 48 hours — "if the ANC co-operates".

And he announced a six month reduction in sentence for common criminals who had not been sentenced for more than five years for serious crimes — murder, rape, indecent assault, abduction, drugs, robbery, culpable homicide, housebreaking or theft.

He said a "couple of thousand" of these prisoners would be released on May 1.

On the political front Mr Coetsee said his Wednesday announcement that political activists who had perpetrated mainly unrest-related offences should be regarded as a general amnesty.

He said the HRC and LHR had presented the Government with a list of 1 292 political prisoners, but only 738 of these were on the Government's records.

It appeared that 133 were probably in Bophuthatswana jails, many were untraceable or used pseudonyms, 349 had been released and 141 were "clearly criminals".

According to the Government's own list, there were 575 "political" prisoners: 131 were clearly "security" prisoners; 142 were "security-related" and 302 were "unrest-related".

Of the 575, the release of 124 had been announced yesterday and a further 60, who fell into the new category announced on Wednesday, would be released today.

Another 100 to 200 could still be identified in this category and released, which would leave about 200 political prisoners to be considered individually.

Explaining the latest position on indemnities, Mr Coetsee said 5 775 had been ap-

● To Page 3

APARTHEID BAROMETER

INDEMNITY

~~253~~ (253)

LESS than three percent of about 40 000 exiles have been repatriated to South Africa, members of the National Co-ordinating Committee for Repatriation (NCCR) said at the weekend.

Since March, 7 310 African National Congress exiles have been flown back, with more than 19 000 still waiting to return and an estimated 20 000 other exiles still abroad.

The NCCR said it had advised exiles not to return until a general amnesty was granted.

Meanwhile, the government granted indemnity to another 220 people who had left South Africa without authorisation or being in possession of valid passports or permits.

A debate raged between State President FW de Klerk — who said in London the number of political prisoners still to be released in terms of the Pretoria Minute with the ANC was "well below" 200 — and human rights organisations who estimated the number still to be freed before the April 30 deadline to be at least 1 146.

The Human Rights Commission said in a special report that, on April 2, 1 361 political prisoners were still being held. Since then a further 119 have been released, and last week the government announced the imminent release of a further 96. *W/Mand 26/4 - 2/5/91*

This week Justice and Correctional Services Minister Kobie Coetsee announced that all political offenders not responsible for death or injury would be indemnified.

This would include those who had committed high treason; Internal Security Act offences such as holding illegal gatherings and unlawful possession of arms, ammunition or explosives; trespassing, arson, malicious damage to property and public violence.

Coetsee's acknowledgement that public violence offences were political could overcome discrepancies in estimates of the numbers of people held.

Coetsee also announced the pending release of another 124 political prisoners — 44 from Robben Island — bringing to 669 the total number of political prisoners released under government-ANC agreements.

POLITICAL PRISONERS ^{Fm 26/4/91} **MASS INACTION** (253)

A delegation of human rights lawyers and the ANC will hold an urgent meeting with Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee this week to clarify some of the chaos surrounding the release of political prisoners.

Sanctions measures in the US are ultimately tied to their freedom and the return of exiles. Pretoria is racing to meet the April 30 deadline agreed with the ANC but, not only will it be unlikely to meet it, but political prisoners and exiles could still be in jail or far from home by late this year.

The US Congress again meets in June to discuss the lifting of sanctions and President George Bush's administration has made it clear no movement will take place until all political prisoners have been released.

Political prisoners are threatening hunger strikes in all prisons on Wednesday. The ANC and related organisations are working on measures to highlight their situation. A mass meeting of the ANC on April 30 addressed by deputy president Nelson Mandela will focus on its perception of the looming crisis in the negotiations process.

The Human Rights Commission's Max Coleman says that, despite the release of 535 prisoners since February 2 last year, about 1 146 known political prisoners remain in jail with an estimated 1 000 unidentified political prisoners still incarcerated. There are also more than 200 political trials in progress with 1 500 accused, he says.

Government has announced the imminent release of another 96 prisoners but it is clear that all political prisoners will not be free by Tuesday. A decision by the ANC's National Consultative Conference in December instructs the leadership to reconsider negotiations if all prisoners are not released by then.

Justice spokesman Johan Grobler says only 850 applications from political prisoners had come in. He claims some were from common criminals, but could not say how many fell into that category.

Grobler says "It should be borne in mind that all those who can truly be described as political prisoners, because their activities related to offences connected with previously

banned organisations, have been released. If there are still people in jail who have committed the lesser of political offences, then such a person is still in prison because of serious, mostly common law offences."

Lawyers and the ANC responded with outrage to Grobler's comment and have disputed it, pointing to commission figures for the number of political prisoners still in jails.

National Association of Democratic Lawyers spokesman Gregg Nott says the process leading to the indemnification of prisoners is bogged down in bureaucracy. Some cases are rejected but no reasons given, making it difficult for lawyers to construct arguments for appeals against those decisions to the indemnity committees headed by judges.

In addition, the drought in foreign funding to human rights lawyers has meant that many political prisoners have still not been contacted by their lawyers and assisted with indemnity applications — a situation which Lawyers for Human Rights is battling to rectify.

Controversy and confusion rage over the position of prisoners on Death Row. Section 22 of the *Government Gazette* of November 7 says these prisoners can be pardoned by the State President, however, those whose sentences have been commuted "will not automatically be entitled to further consideration."

Questioned about this by the *FM* last year, both the Department of Justice and ANC said this would not prejudice Death Row prisoners applying for their cases to be reheard in terms of new legislation on the death penalty. However, now the department and human rights organisations, including the commission and the ANC, concede that in terms of existing agreements there are political prisoners who could be refused indemnity. Coleman has called for government to display good intent and declare a general amnesty on Tuesday.

Some of the 53 political prisoners on Death Row have had their sentences reconfirmed in terms of the new legislation — about 27 have had sentences commuted to either life imprisonment or lengthy jail terms. All had submitted applications for indemnity — rejected by the State President — and are now reapplying in terms of their new sentences.

However, neither the department nor the ANC knows whether they will qualify for release. Both sides are trapped in legalities and bureaucracy while juggling existing laws, previous legislation and a new political process.

Political prisoners released from Death Row, for example, have been placed at the lowest rank of the prisoner notch system — even though the length of time they have spent in prison should have put them at the top rank with its attendant privileges. They have minimal privileges and this causes bitterness and confusion among prisoners and families.

It seems unlikely that government will begin executing prisoners again in the pre-

sent political climate and a subtle acknowledgment of this by government is the extension being built on to Death Row in Pretoria. There are now more than 350 condemned people.

Despite the extensive publicity around the release of political prisoners, and the importance foreign governments attach to it, neither government nor the ANC has adequately moved to fulfil their agreements. Government has shifted the goal posts too many times and the ANC has fallen far short of devoting the necessary resources to the release of those it calls its finest patriots.

Charlene Smith

We would do it again if needed, say white guerrillas

FREE DOWN VI FOR ANC BOMB BTRIO

253
S/Times
26/4/61

THREE of the ANC's top white guerrillas walked out of Pretoria Central Prison yesterday afternoon.

By DE WET POTGIETER

They were two of the famous Broederstroom sabotage cell, Damnan de Lange, 35, and Iain Hugh Robertson, 37, and ANC bomber and former journalist Marlon Sparg, 34.

Left behind and awaiting a deportation order was Mr De Lange's wife, Susan Westcott, 25, who entered the country on a British passport. The couple married in jail last month.

At an impromptu press conference a few hours after their release, Miss Sparg and Mr Robertson said they would "do it again" but hoped it would not be necessary.

Frail

In 1966, at the age of 29, Miss Sparg was jailed for an effective 25 years by the Rand Supreme Court for treason and arson after planting bombs in police stations. She was the first white South African woman known to have served as an ANC soldier.

Damnan de Lange, Iain Robertson and Susan Westcott, known as the "Broederstroom Three", were part of a five-person ANC unit which blew up a high-voltage electricity pylon in Alberton and a radio mast in Linksfield and attacked a military bus in Benoni, injuring 16 SA Air Force personnel.

Yesterday afternoon a visibly nervous and frail-looking Iain Hugh Robertson was whisked away from the prison by a former fellow-inmate, Rob Adam.

Before he left, bearded Mr Robertson said the release had come as a big surprise.

"We had lived on the edge for the past few weeks, waiting for freedom," he said, shaking with excitement. He said he wanted to continue working within the ANC.

Late in the afternoon Damnan de Lange was still locked in a battle to reverse his wife's deportation order.

Mr De Lange was met at the prison by his ex-wife, Diane, and their children. He said he was anxious about the negotiation process because "we still have a long way to go".

Dazed

Mr De Lange said he had seen his wife in prison yesterday and that he had been visiting her once a week. Red-haired Susan Westcott was the communications officer in the ANC guerrilla cell he commanded.

Although she was technically freed with the others yesterday, she was kept in custody by prison officials pending the deportation order.

"I'm fighting her deportation at the moment on the grounds that she is my wife," said Mr De Lange.

He added that he was going to complete his BA degree which he had started in prison through Unisa, but said he did not know what work he was going to do to support himself. However, he vowed he would "proceed in help-

ing to forward the information to the ANC."

Dazed and overwhelmed by the sudden freedom, a reserved but smiling Miss Sparg said she had heard only yesterday morning that she would be freed.

"I'm going to spend time with friends in Johannesburg and then I'm going to visit my parents in East London," she said.

She added that she hoped to resume work in the media.

Poor

Speaking for Mr De Lange and Mr Robertson, Miss Sparg said that, while they felt cautiously optimistic about a political settlement in the country, things were looking bleak.

Miss Sparg added that she had been treated well in prison, but all three agreed that the food was badly prepared, had poor nutritional content and had too much starch.

In Cape Town, meanwhile, another 36 prisoners left Robben Island as part of an accelerated tempo of prisoner releases aimed at meeting a deadline for the release of all political prisoners by Tuesday.



Damnan de Lange and Marlon Sparg yesterday. Picture: COBUS BODENSTEIN

Govt moves to meet prisoner deadline

Blanc 26/4/91

253

CAPE TOWN — Government will come close to meeting the ANC's April 30 deadline for the release of political prisoners

Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee said yesterday 60 more prisoners had been cleared for release, while between 100 and 200 would qualify for freedom under a new indemnity category announced this week

So far, the release of 659 political prisoners has been announced. This means more than 900 are likely to have been freed before the deadline

Coetsee said all but 148 pending indemnity applications would be finalised in the next 24 to 48 hours

A further 1 500 indemnity applications from exiles would be finalised this week in co-operation with the ANC. To date 5 775 applications from exiles had been received and 3 956 had been dealt with

Coetsee said the International Committee of the Red Cross had accepted an invitation to visit all prisons to make sure no political prisoners had "slipped by"

He also announced that a general amnesty of six months would apply to "a couple of thousand" prisoners, in non-political categories. This would come into

Political Staff

effect on May 1

This, added to the six-month amnesty announced at the end of last year, meant many prisoners not covered by the terms of the Pretoria Minute would receive a 12-month remission of sentence.

The amnesty excluded people serving sentences for rape, murder, indecent assault, abduction, drugs, robbery, culpable homicide, housebreaking and theft

Coetsee said at a news conference that the release of 60 more prisoners had been finalised yesterday and up to 200 prisoners would qualify for release in terms of the new category for indemnity. This category covered people who were convicted of committing offences with a political motive, provided no one was killed or injured

A further 200 applications for release had been received recently, bringing the total to 1 050, but they included some people who would not qualify for release

Applications for indemnity and release would still be considered after April 30 and would include all groups, not just the ANC.

De Klerk challenged on SA jails

253
24/4/91
Own Correspondent

LONDON. — President F W de Klerk was yesterday challenged to open South Africa's prisons to inspection by the international community, to substantiate his denial of a report claiming over 1 300 political prisoners are still incarcerated.

At a press conference to mark the release of the report — just seven days before the April 30 deadline set by the ANC for the release of political prisoners — Mr De Klerk was also accused of deliberately withholding details concerning the release of political prisoners.

Mr Horst Kleinschmidt, director of the International Defence and Aid Fund (Idaf) was asked to comment on an earlier claim by Mr De Klerk which disputed the figures produced by Idaf and the South African Human Rights Commission. Mr De Klerk said the figures would be proven wrong by the end of the month.

Mr Kleinschmidt said the two organisations which drew up the list had "irrefutable evidence" that 1 300 political prisoners were still being held.

He said the list was compiled by monitoring organisations and lawyers who dealt with the families of political prisoners.

But, he added "If he pretends they don't exist, the only answer is that the prisons need to be opened so that the international community can see what is going on there. The onus is on him."

Earlier, Idaf researcher Ms Lucia Otto admitted there might be inaccuracies in the report. But, she said, it was the government which should apologise, because it "continues to mask, continues to obstruct every attempt to show who is in prison and who is a political prisoner."

"Even with those people released under the (Pretoria) agreement, the government has not issued their names or given the kind of detail (required)."

411/14/16 26/1/91
Hunger strike

JOHANNESBURG. — Authorities have denied ANC reports that 26 of its members are on a hunger strike at the Leeukop Prison near here

ANC region media officer Mr Ronnie Mamoepa earlier said the prisoners had begun a fast on Sunday

But in its reply to the allegations, a spokesman for the Department of Correctional Services said no hunger strike was in progress — Sapa

Prisoners are freed

CAT Tmp
26/4/91
253

Political Staff

MORE political prisoners are to be set free in the next 48 hours as the ANC's April 30 deadline for the release of all political prisoners draws near.

The Minister of Justice, Mr Kobbie Coetsee, is expected to announce the names of 60 who will be released. Mr Coetsee said yesterday that another 100 and 200 would qualify for release under a new indemnity category and all but 148 indemnity applications would be finalised in the next 4 to 48 hours.

A further 1 500 indemnity applications are to be finalised this week in co-operation with the ANC.

He said the International Red Cross had accepted an invitation to visit all prisons to make sure no political prisoners had "slipped by".

A general amnesty of six months to "a couple of thousand" prisoners would come into effect on May 1 for those serving sentences for specified offences.

Following the six-month amnesty announced at the end of last year, many prisoners, who did not qualify for release in terms of the Pretoria Minute and supporting agreements, will receive a 12-month remission of sentence.

The amnesty excludes people serving sentences for rape, murder, incest assault, abduction, drugs, robbery, culpable homicide, housebreaking and theft.

The release of 659 political prisoners has already been announced.

Mr Coetsee told a press conference that the new category covered those who were convicted of offences with a political motive provided no one was killed or injured.

In total, 919 prisoners may have been freed before April 30.

A further 141, who were included on the Human Rights Commission list of political prisoners, were "clearly criminals" but they included 13 of the people who had been reprieved from death row the week before last.

A further 200 applications for release had been received recently, bringing the total to 1 050, but they included some people who would not qualify for release.

The release of between 100 and 200 prisoners, who qualified because of the new indemnity category, "will leave us with approximately 200 or less who will be dealt with on an individual basis".

However, not all of these had applied for release. If they did they would be handled with the same reconciliation and fairness.

Mr Coetsee said the government had received 5 575 applications for indemnity and release.

The attorneys-general would review these cases and it was possible that some charges would be withdrawn.

His department had approached the Lawyers for Human Rights and the Human Rights Commission about these trials and a list of 1 520 alleged political offenders had been provided.

However, 539 of these people were on trial for offences committed after October 8 last year, 225 committed offences in neighbouring states, charges had been withdrawn against 63, 60 had been convicted, and 123 had been charged with murder.

Although the HRC had provided the names of 1 292 political prisoners still in jail, only 738 had been identified. He said 349 of these had already been released and 141 were clearly criminals.

Freedom

CAT Tmp (377) 253
26/4/91

He said 3 956 applications and 55 individual applications had already been approved.

Together with the new indemnity category, 1 500 applications would be finalised in the next 48 hours with the co-operation of the ANC.

"Only about 148 applications will still be outstanding."

Applications for in-

demnity and release would still be considered after April 30 and would include all groups, not just the ANC.

He also said the Department of Justice had started vetting all current trials involving political offences in terms of the new indemnity category but only 129 of the people involved had applied for indemnity.

Page 2

Many are to be released from prisons soon

Sowetan 26/4/91

By ISMAIL LAGARDIEN
Political Correspondent

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THE Government last night announced the impending release of thousands of political and ordinary prisoners.

Among cases being reviewed are those of ANC guerilla Robert MacBride and rightwing murderer Barend Strydom, who killed 18 blacks.

Although MacBride and Strydom were granted a reprieve from the gallows by the State President, their

● To Page 4

Prisoners to go free

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From Page 1

cases had been referred to an advisory committee for further consideration, Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee said last night.

He said thousands of ordinary prisoners would be released before the end of the year as a result of a reduction in sentence of six months for people jailed for up to five years for minor offences.

This general reduction in sentences comes into effect on May 1.

Coetsee said the release of 124 prisoners was approved this week and 60 others would be released "within the next day or two". Between "one and two hundred" could be released shortly thereafter in terms of a new category of political prisoners which was announced this week.

In terms of the new category, people convicted of arson, violence and other crimes which did not result in the death or injury of any person will be released.

The new category also affects 1 520 political trials presently under way.

He said his department had received 5 775 applications for indemnity since the signing of the Pretoria Minute and about 3 956 of these had been dealt with.

The Human Rights Commission's Dr Max Coleman said yesterday there could be at least 2 000 people who fell into the new category.

"By their own count, 639 releases have been authorised, but this still leaves about 1 000 other political prisoners identified by the HRC," Coleman said.

Azapo spells out its view on prisoners

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THE Azanian Peoples Organisation this week repeated its demand for the unconditional release of all political prisoners.

By NEWTON KANHHEMA

Azapo president Pandelani Nefolovhodwe said because of the controversy surrounding the release of political prisoners it had become necessary for the organisation to clarify its stance on the issue. He said Azapo never thought the struggle for

the release of prisoners and return of exiles would become an issue within the liberation movements. "Now that it appears as if political prisoners and exiles are just about to be defined as those de-

scribed in the Pretoria Minute, Azapo has to state its case quite clearly. "Azapo believes that all our brothers and sisters in exile, irrespective of their political affiliation, are entitled to an unconditional return to their motherland. The same applies to those who are in prison

for the struggle against oppression and exploitation. "For Azapo, this is not negotiable. Those wishing to negotiate this right are entitled to do so. As long as those who negotiate do not exclude members of other organisations from being defined as political

prisoners," Nefolovhodwe added. "Azapo wishes to remind its people that the struggle for the release of political prisoners in our country started when the first prisoner went to prison. Azapo, therefore, urges black people to resist this new version of political prisoners."

NEFOLOVODWE



ANC deadline approaches

By SEKOLA SELLO

WITH just two days before the April 30 deadline for the release of political prisoners and return of exiles, President FW de Klerk insisted the government was "on-schedule in terms of the agreements with the ANC"

He was speaking yesterday morning at Jan Smuts Airport after arriving home from a week-long visit to England, Ireland and Denmark

He criticised those promoting the "propaganda image" of the government not moving fast enough to meet the deadline



De Klerk ... criticised "propaganda image"

Although De Klerk says the government is on schedule, it seems unlikely the process for the return of exiles will be completed by Tuesday

There are about 20 000 to 40 000 people still in exile.

De Klerk is expected to make an announcement in Parliament this week on the ANC's May 9 ultimatum. At the airport yesterday he refused to say whether the government would be able to meet the ANC's demands

The ANC has said negotiations with the government may be derailed if Pretoria does not meet the April 30 deadline for exiles and amnesty for political

prisoners and fails to respond positively to its May 9 ultimatum

The ultimatum demands include the dismissal of Defence Minister Magnus Malan and Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok

There is a discrepancy between the number of political prisoners the government says are still incarcerated and the figure given by the Human Rights Commission

De Klerk said in London there were less than 200, while the HRC puts the figure at 1 146

This is because some political prisoners are regarded by the government as "common law criminals"

The State President said he was warmly received in Ireland and Denmark, countries which in the past were vehement opponents of South Africa

Although De Klerk denied he had gone to Europe with a "shopping list", he said trade with overseas countries was opening up and there was an inflow of capital, even if this was not on a large scale

See reports on Page 10.

De Klerk confident as

Allen 28/4/91

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Amnesty 'on schedule'

Broederstroom trialists freed

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CP Correspondent and Sapa

CP Press
28/4/91

HISTORY was made in Cape Town yesterday when five members of the PAC were freed from Robben Island without having signed indemnity forms.

And Broederstroom trialists Damian de Lange and Iain Hugh Robertson were released from Pretoria Prison, along with ANC bomber Marion Sparg.

The third jailed Broederstroom trialist, Susan Westcott, who married De Lange in prison, was not released as the government apparently aims to deport her. She entered the country on a British passport.

The five PAC members were among a group of 36 prisoners, mainly ANC members, released yesterday. Among the ANC members was James Lucky Mange, who stood trial in Maritzburg in 1979 and was sentenced to death, but this was later commuted to 20 years' imprisonment.

The prisoners received a tumultuous welcome as they landed in Cape Town harbour on a wet, cold and miserable day which did not dampen the spirits of those waiting for them.

Last night they attended a "welcome home" service held by the Rev Chris Wessels at Cowley House - a transit house.

National PAC spokesman Barney

Desai said the release of the men was a significant change in the government's policy. "The PAC welcomes this development as a vindication of our stand that our imprisoned members will not sign a document of indemnity or bargain for their freedom."

The movement had always insisted there could not be meaningful talks unless the regime met conditions set out in the Harare Declaration and United Nations consensus preconditions.

The release of De Lange and Robertson was confirmed by Department of Correctional Services spokesman Col D Immelman.

They were freed in terms of the Pretoria Minute, he said, with specific reference to the new category announced by the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Kobie Coetsee, on April 24. Immelman could not confirm Susan Westcott's release.

Marion Sparg was similarly released in terms of the Pretoria Minute.

De Lange immediately vowed to fight his wife's deportation.

They were met by lawyer Norman Manóim and Rob Adams, who was also recently released from prison.

The Broederstroom trialists were sentenced to lengthy prison terms by the Pretoria Regional Court after some of its members had amassed a huge arse-

nal of Soviet-made weaponry.

De Lange also detonated a remote-controlled charge that injured a number of SAAF members in an SADF bus on the East Rand.

De Lange was apparently met at the prison by his former wife, Diane, and their twin boys. Wearing trackies, black sweater, trousers and a black T-shirt, he said he was "anxious" about the negotiation process because "we still have a long way to go".

Red-haired Westcott was the communications officer in the ANC guerrilla cell. De Lange commanded Iain Robertson was the political commissar.

Sparg, wearing a blue outfit, and emerging with cardboard boxes full of files and Unisa study guides, said her release had come to her as "a great surprise". The former *Sunday Times* reporter said she would first go to Johannesburg and later to her parents' home in East London.

De Lange, a former *Rand Daily Mail* journalist, fled South Africa with Sparg in the early 1980s, initially taking refuge in Botswana. Sparg was later convicted of having planted explosive devices in police offices in Johannesburg.

There are 57 ANC, 10 PAC and two Azapo members still in detention on Robben Island.

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By S'BU MINGALI

400 murderers set D-day pose

Star 29/4/91

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By Jo-Anne Collinge

With tomorrow as the deadline set for the release of all political prisoners, there are about 400 South Africans convicted of murder who should be considered as political prisoners eligible for pardon or release, human rights groups argue.

The names of the 400, together with details of their sentences, appear on a list of political prisoners compiled by the Human Rights Commission (HRC) and the International Defence and Aid Fund (IDAF). They constitute about 30 per cent of the 1 360 political prisoners known to the HRC and IDAF at the beginning of this month.

Although the overall number of political prisoners has decreased considerably since early April — by about 280, with

further releases scheduled for this week — it is unlikely that significant inroads have been made on the list of those convicted of murder.

For instance, only about 40 of the group of 400 sentenced for murder received sentences under five years. And only this small percentage of political murder cases will benefit from the partial amnesty announced last week for all short-term prisoners — that is, six months off their sentences.

It is not clear how many of those listed by the HRC/IDAF for politically related murder also appear on the Government's list of "security related" or "unrest related" political prisoners.

Minister of Justice Kobie Coetsee has already indicated that monitoring groups have about 500 more names on their overall list of political prisoners than the Government has. It is highly probable that this

disputed group contains many prisoners jailed for murder.

There are two broad categories of political prisoners sentenced for murder. First, there are members of the armed wings of the liberation movements who carried out armed attacks on selected targets or inflicted civilian deaths in pursuing a war of liberation.

Second, there are many cases of murder committed in riotous situations, times of community resistance and conflict.

Among the former group are the only two Umkhonto we Sizwe men left on Death Row, Mthetheli Mncube and Mzondeli Nondula, who were responsible for fatal landmine blasts in the Messina area.

Other prominent ANC men still jailed for murder are those convicted in the second Delmas trial — Jabu Masina, TingTing Masango and Neo Potsane, whose death sentences were replaced with long-term jail

terms on appeal.

The second group involved in "unrest related" killings include the Uppington 14, who face the death sentence and whose appeal is to be held shortly, the Sharpeville Six, still serving lengthy jail sentences, and those who were part of the mob which killed Duduza's Maki Skosana.

In terms of agreements reached between the ANC and the Government, common-law crimes may be classified as "political offences" provided it can be established that the offender had a political motive and/or sought to achieve a political goal or further a political cause by acting outside the law, or that the context in which the offence occurred was that of political disturbance or uprising. The seriousness of the offence is also to be considered.

If the HRC/IDAF figures are correct, the sheer number of murder cases alone indicates the process of releasing politi-

cal prisoner will be drawn out.

In almost all 400 cases, individual applications would have to be lodged and each applicant's particular circumstances carefully weighed. The power to pardon remains vested in the State President, who acts in the first instance on the recommendation of Justice Department officials, but may take the advice of a "consulting body".

If the State President turns down an application, the applicant may insist on a review of his/her case, in which the counsel of a "consulting body" must be taken. The powers of these bodies are purely advisory.

Last week, the first ANC-aligned members of consulting bodies were appointed in the persons of lawyers Zola Skweyaya and Dullah Omar.

HRC commissioner Dr Max Coleman and advocate Arthur Chaskalson were also appointed, apparently at the prompting of the ANC.



Minister of Justice Kobie Coetsee announced amnesty last week.

PATRICK LAURENCE reflects on the race to meet the April 30 deadline

Suddenly overcoming obstacles

8-24 29/4/91

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With the April 30 deadline for the "unconditional" release of political prisoners and return of exiles only hours away, problems which appeared intractable last week now seem to be soluble.

Less than a week ago President de Klerk and the African National Congress were at odds over the number of political prisoners who still had to be freed.

Mr de Klerk put the number at less than 200, while the ANC, working from a detailed report compiled by the Human Rights Commission (HRC), insisted that at least 1 300 were in jail.

The Pretoria Minute, signed by the Government and the ANC after their August 6 meeting last year, stated the release of political prisoners had to be completed by April 30 1991, at the latest.

For the Government to meet the deadline — on which the future course of negotiations depends — seemed an all but insurmountable

task while the Government could have met the deadline if Mr de Klerk's total was accepted, it seemed impossible for it to unshackle 1 300 captives before April 30 unless it abandoned the administrative procedures it had insisted on so far.

The HRC asserted the deadline could only be met by "throwing open the prison gates to all those with a clear claim to being in prison because of their resistance to apartheid".

The discrepancy between the Government and the ANC on the number of political prisoners still in jail stemmed in large measure from their different conceptions of what constitutes a political prisoner.

The ANC, with the HRC, identified three categories of political prisoners those who were involved in the ANC's now-suspended armed struggle, those who worked for outlawed organisations before they were unbanned, and those who took

part "mass action and community resistance" against the apartheid system.

The Government, while recognising the first two categories, seemed to regard prisoners in the third as criminals who had been convicted of common law offences, including public violence and arson.

The April 30 deadline was — and is — of critical importance, given the resolution at the ANC's consultative conference last December calling on the ANC national executive committee "to consider suspension of the whole negotiation process" if all political prisoners were not "unconditionally" released by the end of April.

The Government, clearly conscious of the importance of April 30, moved swiftly last week while stopping short of throwing "open the prison gates", it took a number of bold steps. These included:

- Immediate release of nearly 200 more political prisoners
- Broadening of the definition of political prisoner to include people convicted of public violence, arson and malicious damage to property, whose motivation was political and whose actions did not result in loss of life or serious injury.
- Appointment of four ANC nominees — Arthur Chaskalson, Thembule Skweyaya, Dullah Omar and Max Coleman — to advise the judges considering applications for indemnity and release.

But these moves left another problem: the return of exiles who fled South Africa either to escape prosecution under the apartheid system or to take up arms against the "apartheid regime".

The unconditional repatriation of exiles by April 30 was another demand set by the ANC at its December conference. But since then the return of emigres has proceeded slowly. The process only started on

March 7, when 98 expatriates arrived from Zambia. Another 116 arrived from the same country on March 28. On April 18 a further 110 arrived from Tanzania. Another 180 from Tanzania and Kenya arrived on Friday.

But the combined total of less than 450 constituted only a minuscule proportion of the estimated 40 000 South Africans in exile. It is another potential point of dispute in relations between President de Klerk's administration and the ANC.

Before the Government's latest moves to accelerate the release of prisoners, the ANC publicly accused it of holding the prisoners "hostage" in a bid to impose its will on another disputed point in the Pretoria Minute.

The Government slowed down the process, the ANC asserted and the HRC re-emphasised, to force the ANC to comply with its view that ANC's the suspension of the "armed struggle and related activities" — as stipulated in para-

graph three of the Pretoria Minute — embraced more than the cessation of gun and bomb attacks.

The dispute was partially resolved on February 15 when the two sides agreed paragraph three prohibited infiltration of men and material, creation of underground structures and military training of guerrillas inside South Africa.

The whole issue was compounded by the ANC's April 5 open letter to Mr de Klerk: the ANC accused the security forces, or elements in them, of complicity in the violence sweeping the townships and threatened to withdraw from negotiations if he did not meet its seven-point ultimatum by May 9.

These demands, which included the dismissal of the Ministers of Defence and Law and Order, constituted another obstacle to negotiations. First, however, the April 30 deadline has to be overcome. After last week's moves the Government, fortunately, seems to be in the process of doing that. □

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ANC women welcome freed Sparg

Star 29/4/91
KIMBERLEY — Marion Sparg, the Umkhonto we Sizwe soldier freed on Saturday, was warmly welcomed at the ANC Women's League national conference yesterday

Miss Sparg was hesitant to be interviewed, saying she still felt "bombed out"

She would continue to work for the ANC and would at some stage like to resume her career in journalism, she said

Miss Sparg was sentenced to an effective 25 years' jail in 1986 for planting bombs in police stations — Staff Reporter

Family fights

Westcott deportation

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By Helen Grange

The husband and parents of ANC guerilla Susan Westcott are desperately trying to have her pending deportation revoked.

Westcott (25) remained in Pretoria Central Prison at the weekend while fellow ANC members Ian Robertson, Damian de Lange and Marion Sparg walked free.

Although she has been freed from her sentence for terrorism, Westcott has been kept in jail under a deportation order. She entered South Africa on a British passport and is expected to be sent back to England.

Speaking from her home in Swaziland yesterday, Westcott's mother, Margaret Westcott, said she wanted her daughter to be deported to Swaziland if the order could not be revoked.

Consummated

"The deportation application is 18 months old and they have not taken into account her recent marriage in jail to Damian de Lange, a South African citizen," Mrs Westcott said.

"It would be of the utmost cruelty to have Susan flown away from her husband without the marriage even being consummated."

The ANC Women's League meeting in Kimberley, has sent President de Klerk a message expressing outrage at the proposed deportation.

Protest likely if prisoners not released

Political Staff and Sapa

Hunger strikes are likely to be launched in prisons where ANC-aligned political prisoners remain after expiry of tomorrow's deadline for releases, according to lawyers and prison visitors.

As plans for protest inside and outside prison walls firm up, ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela, speaking at the National Union of Mineworkers congress at the weekend, accused the Government of trying to narrow its definition of a political prisoner, leaving thousands of activists behind bars.

Sources said political prisoners still behind bars were resolute that they would take action to highlight the failure of the Government to adhere to the timetable set out in the Pretoria Minute.

At Johannesburg's Diepkloof prison, The Star learnt from reliable sources that the strike is due to begin on Thursday.

A lawyer said action was likely to begin with ANC prisoners and spread to those convicted during township unrest. Expectations of release were high,

he said, and if they were frustrated it was unlikely this would be accepted passively.

Returning from Ireland at the weekend, President de Klerk said the amnesty and indemnity programme would be completed on schedule.

But there are disagreements about the actual number of political prisoners.

Mr Mandela, in his weekend speech to the NUM congress, gave one of the highest assessments of the number of political prisoners, saying "the total could be 5 000".

He said the Department of Correctional Services had acknowledged that there were about 4 000 people in jail for unrest-related crimes.

The Human Rights Commission and the International Defence and Aid Fund said recently that they knew of 1 360 political prisoners still incarcerated at the beginning of this month. They conceded that their lists were not comprehensive, estimating they fell short by at least 700 names.

Even so, the HRC/IDAF figure exceeds the Department of Justice figure by about 500 names. Of these, about 120 are being held in Bophuthatswana.

Mr Mandela said the Government's record on the release of prisoners was "a measure of the failure of the Government to honour its agreements with the ANC on removing obstacles to negotiations".

The ANC has staked its continued participation in pre-negotiations talks on the meeting of the deadline and insists it remains firm in this regard.

● More reports — Pages 6, 10

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Star
29/4/91

Deadline nears amid dispute on prisoners

WITH the deadline for the release of political prisoners only hours away, government and the ANC are locked in disagreement over the fate of an estimated 4 000 prisoners jailed for unrest-related offences

The two sides are also in disagreement over 50 prisoners sentenced for necklace murders and a further 150 jailed members of the ANC's armed wing Umkhonto we Sizwe.

The category of 4 000 unrest-related prisoners was disclosed by a government official at a recent meeting of an audit committee made up of Justice Department, Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) and Human Rights Commission (HRC) representatives

The committee was set up two weeks ago after a meeting between Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee and human rights lawyers to enable the lawyers to gain access to details of prisoners

According to government procedure on prisoners, those who caused death

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29/7/91
PATRICK BULGER

or serious injury will have to appear before a committee of judges which will make recommendations to President F W de Klerk on whether their sentences should be reviewed

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said at the weekend the ANC regarded tomorrow's deadline on prisoners as a cut-off date and that it would review the situation of prisoners once that date had passed

Meanwhile, several prisoners have been informed that their cases would be reviewed by an indemnity committee early next week

The committee has been enlarged by the inclusion of four ANC nominees lawyers Arthur Chaskalson, T L Skweyiya and A M Omar and human rights and detainees' worker Max Coleman.

Three other lawyers have also been appointed to the committee They are A C le Roux, J S Roussouw and J Friedman

Rush of prison releases likely

Sowetan 29/4/91 253



With their fists in the air, some of the 36 political prisoners released from Robben Island at the weekend shout greetings to relatives and well-wishers on the quayside as the ferry docks in Cape Town harbour. Pic Associated Press

By ISMAIL LAGARDIEN
Political Correspondent

MORE political prisoners are expected to be released within the next 24 hours amid a storm brewing over the target date for the release of prisoners.

There were 39 prisoners released at the weekend and at least 100 more are expected to be released before midnight tomorrow.

The Pretoria Minute envisaged that all political prisoners would be released by April 30.

Among those released from Robben Island on Saturday was Mr James Mange, whose death sentence had been commuted to 20 years

Mange's release could signal the imminent release of ANC guerilla Mr Robert Macbride.

Macbride's death sentence was commuted to life earlier this month along with rightwing murderer Barend Strydom.

The Ministry of Justice has said there are 68 political prisoners left on Robben Island. According to Government figures, there are about 150 political prisoners left.

Anti-apartheid groups say that figure is an underestimation. The ANC has said there could be as many as 2 000 political prisoners.

Rightwingers threaten hunger strike

By Al-Ameen Kafaar (253)

Right-wing prisoners are to start with an organised hunger strike tomorrow and will continue until unconditional indemnity has been granted to them, according to Boerestaat Party leader Robert van Tonder.

Mr van Tonder said Orde Boerevolk prisoners Leonard Veenendal and Henk Bredenhann had indicated they would

Start 30/4/91
start yesterday. But if they were unsuccessful, the men would join "Wit Wolf" Barend Strydom, who would start tomorrow, he said.

Other prisoners would then follow suit, he said.

A Department of Correctional Services spokesman yesterday said Strydom, Veenendal and Bredenhann ate breakfast and did not indicate that they intended to stop eating.

'Dedicated terrorist' to be freed

Own Correspondent ^{Star} 30/11/91

CAPE TOWN — Ashley Forbes, the Umkhonto we Sizwe commander described as a "dedicated terrorist" by a Cape Town judge, is to be freed from Robben Island, where he is serving a 15-year sentence. 253

He told his wife, Yasmina Pandy, one of 14 people charged with him, that prison authorities had told him at the weekend "he was going home this week"

Ms Pandy, who was acquit-

ted, visited her husband on Saturday. He told her that Robben Islanders had resolved that those not released by today — when the ANC's deadline for the freeing of political prisoners and return of exiles expires — would go on a hunger strike.

Forbes, a former University of the Western Cape student, was jailed for 15 years, with a further 10 years suspended for five years, by Mr Justice Williamson in the Cape Town Supreme Court in December 1988 after a marathon trial lasting almost eight months.

Unrepentant Westcott is freed from jail

ANC prisoner Susan Westcott walked out of Pretoria Central Prison yesterday after serving two of the 18 years she was sentenced to for terrorism, and vowed she would "do it all again" should the need arise. *253*
810am 30/4/91.

The 27-year-old British citizen and Umkhonto we Sizwe member was technically released along with three other ANC prisoners, including her husband Damian de Lange, on Saturday.

But she was only freed yesterday afternoon after her lawyer arranged a temporary residence permit for her. Government was earlier expected to insist that Westcott be deported.

Westcott was on a one-year tourist visa

DARIUS SANAI

when arrested in 1988. She said yesterday she was "dazed" but relieved to be out of prison, which she called a "nasty place".

She said she spent the first nine months of detention, before she was charged, in solitary confinement.

Asked whether she would take part in military action if negotiations broke down, she said "of course. I am a member of Umkhonto we Sizwe and I take orders".

She said she had always thought she would be released "within five years", but felt no gratitude towards government, saying it was the ANC which got her out.

● Picture Page 3

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Sovietan
20/4/91
**D-Day for
release of
prisoners**

TODAY is the deadline for the release of political prisoners and the return of exiles in terms of the agreement between the ANC and the Government.

The deadline contained in the Pretoria Minute also comes amid threats of hunger strikes by ANC-aligned prisoners after the expiry date and a war of words as to who is a political prisoner.

It also follows the ANC Youth League's statement yesterday that it would embark on mass action, including marches on the Union Buildings in Pretoria, sit-ins and demonstrations.

'Prisoner releases on track'

ANC is dragging its feet, says FW

Star 115791

By Peter Fabricius
Political Correspondent

As the April 30 "deadline" for the release of political prisoners passed yesterday, President de Klerk said the releases were on track — and blamed the ANC for dragging its feet.

Mr de Klerk told Parliament yesterday that he had approved the release of a further 71 prisoners on Monday — bringing the total so far to 933 ~~500~~ (253).

But he accused the ANC of dragging its feet with late applications for release or indemnity, and for failing to co-operate with the Government by not attending meetings or not providing requested information.

Mr de Klerk said he had turned down the release applications of 364 people because of the seriousness of their crimes — such as neck-lace murders.

However, many fell in a "grey area" regarding the question of whether their crimes were politically motivated or not.

He had referred these to the consultative body which had been established for the purpose and which included members of the ANC — and was ready to reconsider his decision "expeditiously" on its advice.

Mr de Klerk said the Groote Schuur Minute — to which the ANC was bound — recognised that there was no objective definition of a political prisoner.

But the Minute had identified certain statutory offences as purely political and also offences such as high treason which were directed against the State — unless a common law crime was committed in exceptional circumstances serious crimes such as murder could also be considered.

These cases were naturally controversial and required "deep and serious consideration".

More applications for indemnity or release were coming in daily. On Monday alone, 351 had been received and the total for April was 1 823.

"Compare this with the 725 for March 1991 and you will realise that it is not the Government which has been dragging its feet but the applicants and their organisation which have woken up at the last moment."

Referring to indemnities, he said 4 530 of the 5 872 applications received had been dealt with by category, 55 individually and 90 had been refused or were being considered by the indemnity committees.

"A further approximately 526 applications could have been dealt with by Friday last week if the ANC had kept its appointment with the officials of the Department of Justice."

Another 402 had been referred back to the ANC for "proper" information and



Angry gesture — a man brandishes an imitation AK-47 in front of the Diepkloof police station

could be dealt with if the ANC co-operated.

This would have left 287 applications yesterday to be dealt with individually, pending further information from the responsible organisations.

The lack of co-operation and information from these organisations was "not satisfactory", he said.

Despite repeated requests to the ANC to identify political prisoners, it was only on April 25 this year that it had identified itself with a list of 1 292 drawn up by the Human Rights Commission.

However, only 770 of these were on the Government's records, many were "unknown" and 133 were in neighbouring countries.

Obliquely referring to ANC accusations that the Government had started the release and indemnity process late, Mr de Klerk said it was "conveniently forgotten" that

● The indemnity and release process could only get going after February 12 when the ANC re-committed itself at the DF Malan airport talks to carry out its commitments under paragraph three of the Pretoria Minute. These commitments were to the "effective termination of violent and related activities".

A "great rumpus" had

been made of "so-called political trials" still under way (They number 1 632 according to the Lawyers for Human Rights).

Of these crimes 539 had been committed after the October 8 1990 cut-off date agreed to by the Government and the ANC, 225 of the crimes had been committed in neighbouring states, 79 cases had been completed or withdrawn and 103 involved murder which had to be dealt with individually.

Only 116 of those on the list had applied for indemnity and only 155 of the crimes committed before October 8 1990 were "possibly of a political nature".

Mr de Klerk stressed that not only ANC members were being indemnified and so the process would continue after April 30.

Referring to the 364 convicts whose applications for release he had turned down, Mr de Klerk said a significant number were "opportunists or dangerous criminals".

One had raped two women aged 94 and 87, had murdered one of them and stolen a radio and jewellery — but had applied for release as a political prisoner.

Many others had been convicted of "particularly brutal murders" such as neck-lacing

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'Honeymoon would be nice' Susan Westcott and her husband, Damlan de Lange, barely a day after being released from prison. They were married in prison in February, but spent their first night together on Monday. Picture: John Hogg

Rightwingers tuck in before going on hunger strike

Staff Reporter *Star* 15/191

Three right-wing prisoners who were to start a hunger strike today have not informed the Department of Correctional Services of their intentions, a spokesman said yesterday.

He said "Wit Wolf" Barend Strydom and two Orde Boere-volk members, Leonard Veenendaal and Henk Bredenhann, ate two meals yesterday.

The decision to go on a hunger strike came after the men's applications for indemnity were unsuccessful, according to Boerestaat Party leader Robert van Tonder.

Mr van Tonder said an organised hunger strike was planned in which Strydom, Veenendaal and Bredenhann would take the lead. Other prisoners would then follow suit, he said.

The strike would continue until unconditional indemnity had been granted to all right-wing prisoners, Mr van Tonder said.

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3 rightwingers granted amnesty

By Monica Oosterbroek (253)

Star 215791

Three right-wing prisoners were granted unconditional amnesty and released from Pretoria Central Prison on Tuesday.

Those released were Orde Boerevolk deputy leader Henk Bredenhann (30) of Heidelberg, Arthur Archer (29) of Southdale and Craig Barker (21) of Ridgeway. They had been arrested in September.

Mr Bredenhann was held along with Orde Boerevolk leader Piet Rudolph in connection with three explosions and

the theft of large quantities of arms and ammunition from Air Force headquarters in Pretoria.

Mr Bredenhann's six charges of terrorism were withdrawn in the Rand Supreme Court on Tuesday.

Mr Archer and Mr Barker were arrested in connection with several explosions in Johannesburg.

● Mass murderer Barend Strydom began a hunger strike at Pretoria Central yesterday in a bid to be released from jail.

His death sentence was recently commuted to life imprisonment.

Prisoners start 'release or die' hunger strike

By Zingisa Mkhuma (253)

As many as 364 political prisoners throughout the country are said to have embarked on hunger strikes and have threatened to continue until they are released or until they die.

Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) said this yesterday, a day after the expiry of the deadline agreed to by the ANC and the Government for the release of all political prisoners and the return of all exiles.

Cape Town lawyer Willie Hofmeyr, representing more than 25 ANC, PAC and Black Consciousness Movement prisoners held on Robben Island, said the prisoners had handed a memorandum to the prison authorities yesterday, asking for their immediate release.

Among the hunger strikers were Sasol 2 bombers Mandla Shabangu and David Moloisi, both serving life sentences for

sabotage, and Natal journalist Rafiq Rohan, whose case has been referred to the indemnity committee

Responding to President de Klerk's accusation that the ANC was "dragging its feet with the late releases or indemnity", LHR said it had informed Mr Coetsee that Government officials had been responsible for most problems with applications and releases.

Some prisoners had filled in applications for release six months ago but their applications had not received attention

There were also prisoners, whose cases fell under the latest unconditional category, who remained in jail.

LHR said that although the Government insisted that political prisoners sentenced to death should have their sentences commuted before their applications for release could be processed, this had not been stipulated in the Pretoria Minute or agreed on by the ANC/Government working group

Star 2/5/91

1 000 prisoners to be freed

AT least 1 000 prisoners — whom the Human Rights Commission (HRC) classifies as political — are due for release in terms of the effective 12-month remission of sentence announced by Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee

Coetsee said last week that prisoners serving a sentence of less than five years for crimes other than rape, murder, drugs, robbery and culpable homicide would get six months off their sentences

This was in addition to a six-month remission he granted last December.

The HRC said yesterday the prisoners had not yet been identified but were mostly being held on unrest-related offences

In a breakdown of political prisoner releases, the HRC said 1 823 political prisoners had applied for release and that 364 applications had been turned down.

The HRC said that in the 14 months between February last year and March this year, 310 prisoners were freed. During April, the last month leading up to the ANC-government deadline for the release of political prisoners, 623 prisoners were

released

The HRC alleged 738 political prisoners were still being held

Meanwhile, Sapa reports the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will visit SA prisons this month to ensure that every prisoner possibly qualifying for indemnity would use the opportunity.

Announcing this, the Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services yesterday confirmed the HRC's figure of 364 cases being refused and 933 prisoners being released

The Ministry said the release of prisoners had been frustrated by a lack of information, especially from the ANC, to identify likely applicants.

A "notable number" of the applications for release turned down were criminals who "opportunisticly took a chance", the Ministry said

Since the ICRC resumed its visits to prisons last month, about 70 applications were received as a result of their efforts, most of which had already been granted

PATRICK BULGER

253

...into a parked minibus which sped tal."

ICRC to visit SA prisoners

CAPL
TintS
3/5/91
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FOLLOWING an invitation from the SA government, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will visit prisons here this month to ensure that every prisoner possibly qualifying for indemnity uses the opportunity

The Ministry of Justice and of Correctional Services said that from February 2 last year to date, 933 prisoners had been released — Sapa

1 000 more 'political' prisoners indemnified

CAPL TintS 3/5/91

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — At least 1 000 prisoners — whom the Human Rights Commission (HRC) classifies as political — are due for release in terms of the effective 12-month remission of sentence announced by Justice Minister Mr Kobie Coetsee

The HRC said yesterday the prisoners had not yet been identified but were mostly being held on unrest-related offences

Meanwhile, Sapa reports the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will visit SA prisons this month to ensure that every prisoner possibly qualifying for indemnity would use the opportunity

right-wingers

JOHANNESBURG — Order of Death members Fanie Goosen, 30, and Cornelius Lottering, 25, were yesterday told in Johannesburg Regional Court that they had been granted indemnity from charges of conspiracy to commit sabotage, and housebreaking and theft.

Lottering was previously sentenced to an effective 24 years' imprisonment for murder and Goosen to 13 years for causing an explosion — Sapa

MK commanders fly in to SA

CAPL TintS 3/5/91

JOHANNESBURG. — The biggest group yet of ANC military commanders flew into Jan Smuts Airport yesterday from Angola, and said they were ready to assist in whatever way the ANC deemed necessary to help end continuing violence.

"If the violence continues against our people it is necessary for us as Umkhonto we Sizwe commanders to use our experience to defend them," said MK commander Mr Alfred Nkosi, 29, who led a group of 192 returnees.

"If violence cannot be solved in any other way, violence can also

be applied to stop violence.

He stressed, however, that he believed it was more important for all South Africans to meet, and "to solve the problem of violence peacefully".

● ANC head of repatriation, Mr Jackie Selebi, said yesterday the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) wanted a general amnesty for all exiles before it became involved in the repatriation process

He also said uncertainty over who controlled police action against returnees was delaying the repatriation process.

"It seems like we have two governments — one headed by, De Klerk and the other being the police. Nobody appears capable of bringing the police to book," Mr Selebi said.

● Meanwhile, ANC sources said yesterday exiles were flocking to Lusaka from other parts of the world, hoping to expedite their return home. The influx had created an acute accommodation crisis.

● The British government has set aside R2,5 million to help in reintegrating exiles and former political prisoners into SA. — Sapa

Red nose award

Important Announcement



Govt frees 15 who murdered during unrest

Star 315791.

Political Staff

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CAPE TOWN.— At least 15 people who committed murder during unrest have been released from prison in terms of the agreement between the Government and the ANC on the release of political prisoners, Minister of Justice and Correctional Services Kobie Coetsee said yesterday.

Mr Coetsee issued a 27-page information document on indemnities and amnesties in a Government bid to counter the ANC's allegations of tardiness.

So far 933 political prisoners had been released, and 364 amnesty applications had been refused or referred to the panel of judges set up to consider individual applications, he said.

Thirty-seven people on Death Row had applied for amnesty.

"The release of prisoners was frustrated by a lack of information, especially from the ANC, to indicate which people were entitled to apply for release," Mr Coetsee said. "The ANC was given free access to all prisoners so as to enable the ANC to persuade those who qualify to apply for release."

Lawyers for Human Rights had been helping the Department of Correctional Services in the process since February 21 by placing notices in every prison on the release procedure.

The LHR last month had access to prisons to ensure that all prisoners were informed about the release procedure.

Mr Coetsee said that through visits to prisons by the International Committee of the Red Cross, another 70 applications for release had been received. Most of these prisoners had been released.

The monthly rate of applications for indemnity or release was September 9, October 10, November 190, December 2 455, January 792, February 1 323, March 735 and April 2 003, giving a total of 7 507 applications.

Mr Coetsee gave 20 examples of unrest-related prisoners who had been released. Among these were a person sentenced in November 1988 to six years for murder for setting alight and burning to death five people during unrest had been set free last month.

A prisoner sentenced to five years in July 1988 for beating a woman to death with a sjambok had been freed last month.

A prisoner had been released from Leeukop last month after serving nearly six years of a 10-year sentence for stoning a baby to death during unrest.

One prisoner had six convictions of murder against him for burning down a house with people inside, and had served less than half of a six-year sentence.

Applications for amnesty from four prisoners who killed policemen in separate incidents had been turned down.

Last 40 to be moved from Robben Island

Political Staff

Star 3/5/91 (253)

CAPE TOWN — The last 40 security prisoners on Robben Island are to be moved to mainland prisons, and the jail will be used to relieve pressure at the Pollsmoor prison, the Commissioner of Correctional Services announced yesterday.

He raised the possibility of the island being used for tourist and educational purposes.

The ANC said in statement

yesterday that the 31 prisoners on a hunger strike would continue their strike and refuse to be moved because they believed they qualified for release.

The commissioner declined to comment, other than to say it was "the policy of the Department of Correctional Services not to comment on hunger strikes by individuals or groups of prisoners."

Of the 40 remaining prisoners, 28 were ANC members. Ap-

plications for release had been received from 22, considered and turned down and then referred to the joint Government/ANC consulting body set up to solve disputes on the question of whether prisoners qualified for release. The remaining six "recent applications are at present being dealt with."

No applications had been received from the 10 PAC or the two Black Consciousness Movement prisoners on the island.

Will Island jail close?

Copy Times 3/5/91
Staff Reporters

ROBBEN ISLAND is to be closed down as a jail for political prisoners — and there now appears to be a chance that the entire prison will be closed

The Commissioner of Correctional Services, Lieutenant-General W H Willemse, said yesterday the remaining 40 political prisoners on the island — who are on a hunger strike — were to be transferred to Pollsmoor prison “in due course”

He said it would obviously be uneconomical to run a prison with a capacity for 600 for only 40 inmates. However, because of

“long-standing chronic serious overpopulation” in the maximum security section at Pollsmoor, the Robben Island prison would still be used

He said the service planned to run the prison with the help of a conservationist and other interested parties

He said prison would be used in the medium-term and that the situation would change

Mr Nic Malherbe, chairman of the Future of Robben Island Committee, said yesterday that as political prisoners came off the island they were replaced by common criminals

There was no chance of estab-

lishing a casino on the island even when all the prisoners had left it and the homelands had been re-incorporated into South Africa

Meanwhile the remaining 40 political prisoners on the island yesterday refused to leave unless they were freed, their lawyer, Mr Willie Hofmeyr, said yesterday. Thirty-one of the 40 are on a hunger strike, he said. “They should have been released by now and they see no reason why they should be moved to another prison at this stage”

● 1 000 more ‘political’ prisoners indemnified — Page 2

Prisoners go on hunger strike 253

By MARK GEVISSER
MORE than 100 political prisoners have been on hunger strike since Wednesday, including all 40 on death row at Pretoria Maximum Security prison, all 40 on Robben Island, the 17 recently released from death row to Pretoria Local prison, and 13 in East London prison.

Yesterday, 33 prisoners in Aliwal North and 12 in

Aliwal 315-915791
Bloemfontein joined the strike, as did prisoners in Kimberley and at Diepkloof in Soweto. Human rights monitoring groups and the African National Congress say information of other prisons joining the strike is coming in all the time.

The prisoners demand not only their unconditional and immediate release, but the speedy return of exiles, an end to

violence, the scrapping of all security legislation, the abolition of the death penalty and the sacking of ministers Magnus Malan and Adriaan Vlok.

"This is not going to be a hunger strike of a few days," the prisoners at Pretoria Local have stated. "This is a strike either to our death or our release." The strikers on death row have already decided that they will take only water for the first seven days, and will then refuse to eat or drink anything.

A Lawyers for Human Rights spokesman who has been in contact with some of the prisoners said: "It is very worrying how serious and determined they seem to be."

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus commented: "The strike reflects the seriousness of the government's failure to abide by the April 30 deadline of the Pretoria Minute. These prisoners have now been forced to put their lives on the line."

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ICRC to visit SA prisoners

FOLLOWING an invitation from the SA government, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will visit prisons here this month to ensure that every prisoner possibly qualifying for indemnity uses the opportunity.

The Ministry of Justice and of Correctional Services said that from February 2 last year to date, 933 prisoners had been released — Sapa

Prisoners refuse to leave Robben Island

Sowetan 315791.

253

THE remaining 30 ANC prisoners on Robben Island as well as about 10 PAC members - most of whom have been on a hunger strike since Wednesday to press for their immediate release - have been told they are being transferred to the Pollsmoor maximum prison.

Lawyers acting for the prisoners said the Department of Correctional Services informed the prisoners yesterday that they were being transferred.

The prisoners indicated that they would refuse to move, lawyer Willie Hofmeyr said. "They have indicated that they should have been

released by now and they see no reason why they should be moved to another prison at this stage.

"The prisoners are determined to continue their hunger strike until their release," Hofmeyr said.

Not being released

Hofmeyr said he had visited the prisoners on the Island on Wednesday and they were dissatisfied they were not given any reasons for not being released with other political prisoners this week.

Some claimed their indemnity application forms were not forwarded to the authorities, while in other cases the prisoners' co-accused had been released.

Hofmeyr charged it was important to note that nobody was injured or killed by the actions of the ANC members currently on the Island.

He said among those on the Island are Mandla Shabangu and David Moisi, who were involved in acts of sabotage at Sasol 2 and who were charged with Bobby Tsotsobe.

Tsotsobe has been released but the other two are still on the Island.

Tsotsobe was also involved in an attack on the Booyse's police station, an attack on a policeman's house and explosions on a railway line and the West Rand Administration Board offices - *Sapa*

Govt faces protest fast by prisoners

THE Government faces the threat of a nationwide hunger strike by right-wing, left-wing and other prisoners who are demanding their release

A total of 222 prisoners have launched hunger strikes following the Government's failure to meet the prisoner release deadline of April 30 in terms of the Pretoria Minute, according to the Human Rights Commission

They include members of the African National Congress and the Black Consciousness Movement

Among the ANC hunger strikers are the Sasol 2 bombers, Mandla Shabangu and David Moloisi, who are serving life sentences for sabotage, and Natal journalist Rafiq Rohan, whose case has been referred to the indemnity committee.

on Right and Left

(253) Star 4/15/71
PAT DEVEREAUX

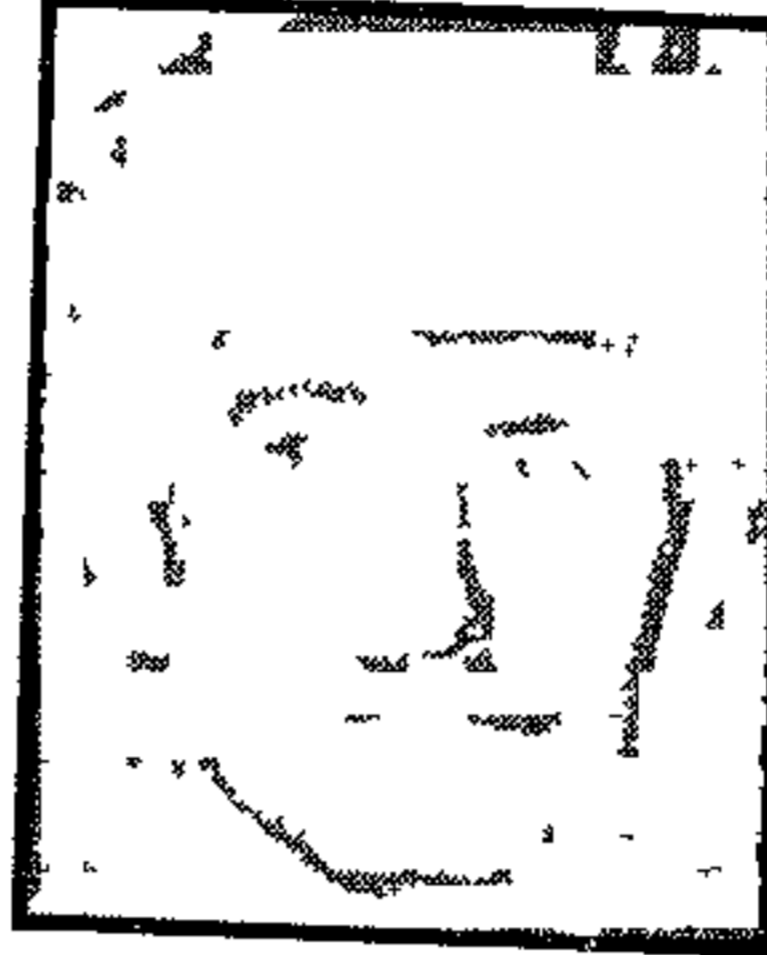
The HRC said 40 prisoners on Death Row in Pretoria were not eating

Of the 40 remaining prisoners on Robben Island, 31 have gone on hunger strike, according to lawyer Willie Hofmeyer

"The prisoners will refuse to move to Pollsmoor Prison, where they have been told they will be transferred," said Mr Hofmeyer

He added that they were demanding their immediate release and wanted to take sports, music and other equipment they had acquired over the years with them

According to Boerestaart Party leader Ro-



BAREND STRYDOM: On hunger strike.

bert van Tonder, mass murderer Barend Strydom has also gone on hunger strike and will shortly be joined by six other rightwingers, including Leonard Veenendal, Henry Martin, Adriaan Maritz, Piet Botha, Arrie Smuts and Lood van Schalkwyk

"They are embarking on a hunger strike at Pretoria Central Prison because they want the same treatment as Nelson Mandela, as well as an amnesty," said Mr van Tonder

He could not say exactly when the prisoners would start their hunger strike

Yesterday the ANC said it "noted with concern the authorities' failure to meet the April deadline to release all prisoners"

"The fact that political prisoners now have to put their lives on the line (through hunger strikes) to get the freedom promised is a very serious indictment of the Government"

The ANC added that it fully supported the hunger strikes by political prisoners

Anger at delays in freeing prisoners

By DESMOND BLOW

THE Government and the ANC are at loggerheads over responsibility for the delay in the release of all political prisoners

State President FW de Klerk blamed the ANC for the delay during the Budget debate in parliament this week, accusing them of proceeding "too slowly in submitting names of political prisoners for government to endorse their release"

De Klerk said the ANC had "for the first time, only on April 25, formally submitted 1 292 names of political prisoners for release, of which only 770 were on prison record"

Not so, replied the ANC. It claims it is not necessary for them to identify political prisoners because the Department of Justice has records of all political prisoners.

De Klerk said the ANC "failed

to keep an appointment with the Department of Justice on Friday last week when 526 applications could have been dealt with"

He said the ANC had also failed to make itself available on Monday this week - the eve of the deadline - to deal with outstanding applications

De Klerk said the government was ready to "fulfil its obligations" in terms of the Pretoria Minute immediately, but progress had been halted by "obstacles over which it has no control"

Now a backlog has developed - 351 applications were filed on Monday, bringing April's total to 1 823

"Compare this with 725 for March and you will realise that it is not the government that has been dragging its feet," he said

Altogether a total of 933 political prisoners were, or are in the process of being released, De Klerk said

The government rejected appli-

cations for the release of 364 prisoners because the nature of their crimes was "too serious, a large proportion committed against women and elderly people"

The State President said both the Pretoria and Groote Schuur Minutes had "recognised there was no generally accepted definition of a political offence"

The broadest possible definition had been reached, he said

However, the ANC maintains that the government is deliberately delaying the release of prisoners, and points to the fact that there are still 40 political prisoners on Robben Island who have not been released

"They are there in a political prison as political prisoners so there can be no excuse for them not being released," said ANC information officer Karl Niehaus, who was himself recently released from prison after serving eight years

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C 1989 5/15/91



Inkatha supporters sing war songs in Dobsonville during a May Day show of strength. While police searched for arms at rallies, Inkatha supporters carried traditional and other arms in full view of the public and their police escorts. More than 60 people have already been killed in the past week. ■ Pic: TLADI KHUELE



PRISONERS STARVE FOR FREEDOM

By THEMBA KHUMALO

(253)

HUNDREDS of ANC-affiliated political prisoners embarked on a hunger strike this week after the government failed to meet the April 30 release deadline

Now, according to ANC spokesman for the PWV region Ronnie Mamoepa, a "showdown between the ANC and government is inevitable should the hunger strikes continue for any length of time"

Mamoepa told *City Press* the "hunger strikes by hundreds of prisoners began in prisons countrywide on May 1"

Addressing a Worker's Day rally at the Johannesburg City Hall this week, ANC depu-

CP Press 5/5/89

ty president Nelson Mandela, said the National Executive Committee would "soon decide the line of action to take following the government's failure to release all political prisoners"

Among the prisoners alleged to be on hunger strike are the 'Second Delmas Trial three' - Jabu Masina, Ting Ting Masango and Neo Potwane Their death sentences have been commuted to long jail terms

About 40 Death Row inmates at Pretoria Central Prison are alleged to have joined the hunger strike Among them are Mthetheli Mncube and Euclid Nondula, who were convicted for landmine blasts during 1986 in Mesima

The 'Uppington 14' are also said to have joined the hunger strike

At Leeuwkop Prison north of Johannesburg,

26 prisoners are allegedly on hunger strike

Mamoepa said the 'Sharpeville Six' and those convicted for the "necklace killing of Maki Skhosana had also come out on hunger strike"

ANC spokeswoman Gill Marcus announced this week that about 31 of the 40 prisoners on Robben Island were on hunger strike

Among them is Christmas Motokeng of Soweto, who was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment in 1988 for a 'necklace' murder The nine others are believed to be PAC members

Marcus added that prisoners were angered by a statement issued by Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee that said all remaining inmates

have had their cases referred to the Indemnity Committee

"According to a working document drafted by the Working Committee, it was agreed that all political prisoners and those whose crimes were unrest-related, would be released by April 30 The prisoners have told us that only 11 cases had been referred to the Indemnity Committee," said Marcus

Correctional Services Department spokesman Major DH Smith said less than 15 prisoners were on strike countrywide

"A large number of prisoners had been released in phases according to the Pretoria Minute What now remains are those cases where individuals maintain they qualify to be released"

THE general assumption in Washington — an assumption strengthened by the State Department, no doubt on the basis of the excellent reporting it receives from its Pretoria embassy — is that the South African government must take much of the blame for the April 30 prisoner-release "deadline" not having been met.

To counter this, South Africa's ambassador Harry Schwarz and his team have been circulating a series of faxes General WH Willemse, Commissioner of Correctional Services, sent to Matthew Phosa of the ANC's legal department.

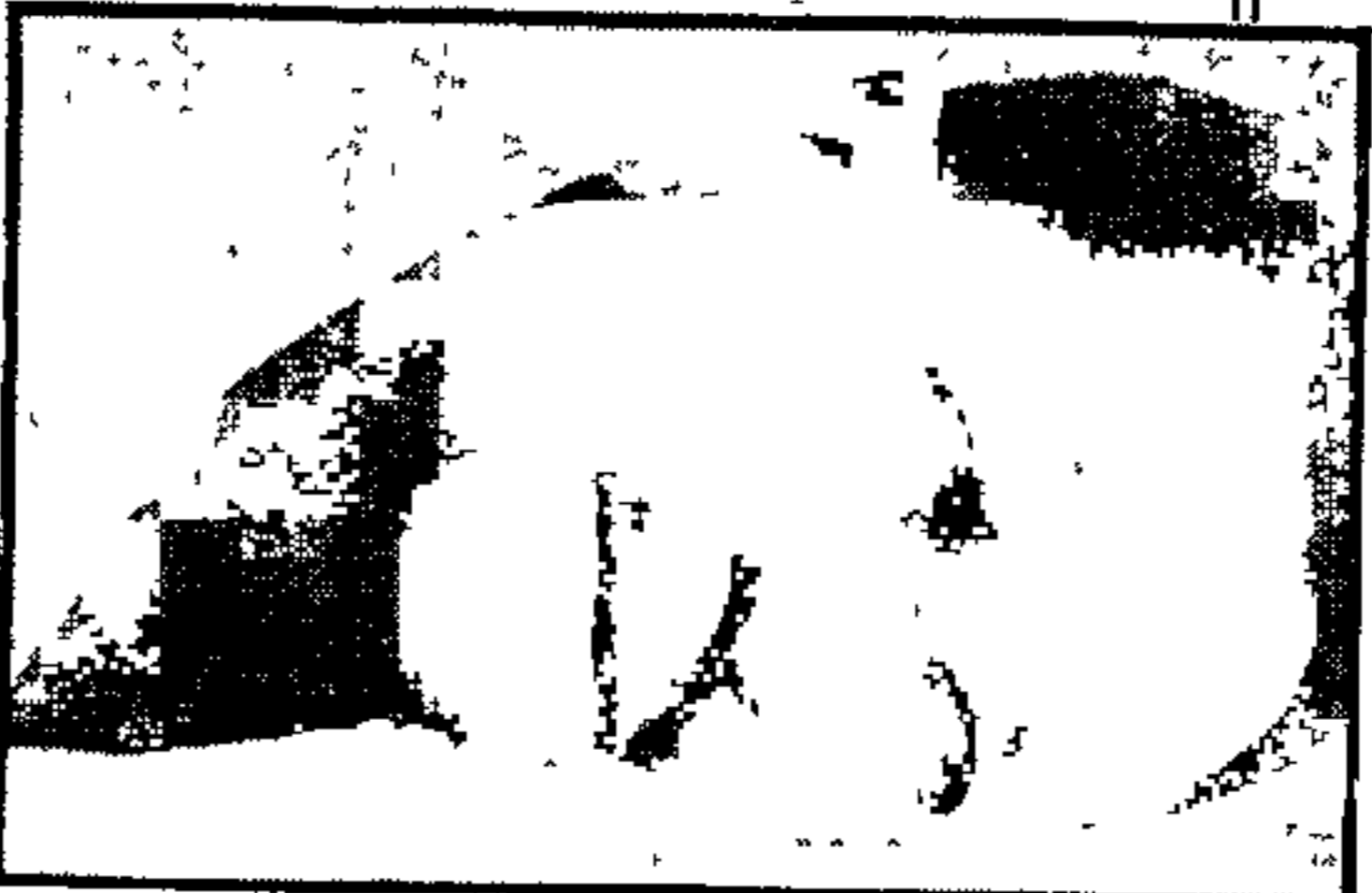
Unfortunately, it would have been improper for the government to release Phosa's replies without the ANC's consent, so it must be admitted at the outset that the documents tell only one side of the story. On the other hand, it appears that Phosa's replies were few and far between.

SUNDAY ASSESSMENT By SIMON BARBER in Washington

The House sub-committee on African affairs, several of whose members were in possession of the faxes, had an opportunity to question Phosa when he appeared as a witness before the committee last week.

However, the chairman — Congressman Mervyn Dymally — was more interested in hearing what Randall Robinson had to say and adjourned the session before the horse's mouth could speak.

The correspondence began on February 14. Willemse reported that he had been asked by the Justice Minister to see Phosa and attorney Willie Hofmeyr the previous day "in order to assist them with the defective and inad-



SLOW RESPONSE ... the ANC's Matthew Phosa

equate documentation of the prisoners on Robben Island". They did not turn up. "I was in fact waiting all day for Messrs Phosa and Hofmeyr and have to this moment not heard from either of them. I have

The fax about the ANC's delay in handing over prisoner 'deadline' list

left messages for Mr Hofmeyr both at home and at his work

"The Minister of Justice ... sends his compliments and points out we are still available to assist you and asks that delays should now be obviated. With kind regards"

The next fax is dated February 27. Phosa and the general had finally met on the 21st, when "it was agreed that you would make available to me your list of names of prisoners that you regard as security or security-related."

Willemse would compare the list "with our official record ... to establish whether there are any differences which we could

then attempt to resolve"

Phosa had agreed to give his list to a Mr A Bosch with whom he had an appointment on the 27th. Willemse noted. Alas, "I have just now been informed that although you have met with Mr Bosch's representative today, you have not delivered any list.

Expedite

"You will appreciate that without the benefit of your list of names and particulars, the process of verification cannot commence ... With kind regards ..."

A note of mild impatience crept into the general's next communication, dated March 3

"Following my facsimile of 27 February 1991, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that I have not yet received your list ... If it could assist to expedite the matter, I would gladly arrange for one of my officials to collect the document from your offices at a date and time convenient to yourselves. Awaiting your reply. With kind regards."

By April 15, the general was showing signs of exasperation. He reminded Phosa that they had spoken by telephone six days earlier. Phosa had "indicated that the ANC's long-standing list of 'political prisoners' would be made available to me on Friday, 12 April 1991, not later than

16h00"

Willemse had made special arrangements for staff to be on duty over the weekend "to attend to the verification ... in order to expedite matters and even try to compensate for the delay already caused by your failure to make available the list of names on dates previously agreed upon. Once again, we had to wait in vain.

Terse

"You will appreciate that delays of this nature must inevitably have an adverse effect on the whole process. Your urgent attention and response is

of the utmost importance. With kind regards ..."

April 24 — six days from the "deadline" — and Willemse was terse.

"It is 24 April ... I have not yet received your promised list of names of prisoners whom the ANC regards as possible candidates for qualification as political prisoners in terms of the Pretoria Minute.

"This is of particular importance now in view of the rather ill-informed and negative propaganda that appears in newspapers and pamphlets. Your urgent reply will be appreciated. Yours faithfully ... CC Mr. N Mandela, Deputy President of the ANC."

It is a mischievous thought, but one wonders how many prisoners have been kept in jail by their own organisation to prevent the sanctions-lifting conditions of the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act from being fulfilled

Red Cross in SA comeback

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Star 6/5/91

The International Committee of the Red Cross last month resumed visits to political prisoners in South Africa for the first time since visits were suspended in 1986 — a time when some of the ICRC's activities were curtailed and staff was cut. CARINA LE GRANGE reports on the ICRC's current status in providing humanitarian aid for political prisoners in South Africa.

THE YEAR 1986 was not a good year for the ICRC in South Africa. It was also not a good year for sentenced political prisoners who had received visits from the Red Cross on a regular basis since 1963, and who suddenly found these visits suspended.

The ICRC was born out of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it is found.

It became associated with the birth of humanitarian law and generated respect from all sides in conflict situations throughout the world for more than a century. It has been involved in such situations throughout the world, including visits to security prisoners, in over 40 countries.

In 1986 in South Africa, however, the ICRC found itself the focus of victimisation in that it was expelled from the country briefly in November that year by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Pik Botha.

Mr Botha's decree to expel the ICRC was sparked by a decision by anti-South African delegates — mainly African — at an international conference of the Red Cross to expel South African Government delegates from that conference.

In a dramatic overturn amid much publicity, however, Mr Botha reversed his expulsion order in the last hour — but the number of ICRC Swiss delegates to South Africa was cut.

Mr Botha was seen at the time to have acted rashly in ordering the expulsion, but in his defence it was said he had justly accused the vote to expel South Africa as being contrary to the Red Cross tenets.

These were, inter alia, the Seven Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross, adopted at 20th International Conference at Vienna in 1965: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service and unity.

Since 1986, with curtailed activity, the Red Cross continued to assist Mozambican refugees and families of political prisoners. There are also fieldworkers in violence-stricken areas such

as those of Natal.

But visits to sentenced political prisoners were stopped. According to the Geneva-based deputy head of the press division, Karen Saddler, the visits were suspended because the ICRC's initial agreement with the South African Government covered sentenced prisoners falling into certain categories.

"But the situation had changed and many prisoners were jailed under common law for acts committed in unrest situations. We suspended all visits to have talks about getting access also to these prisoners," Ms Saddler said after the Minister of Justice Kōbie Coetsee's go-ahead to resume visits in early April.

Within days of Mr Coetsee's announcement, 10 more Swiss delegates — including three doctors — arrived in South Africa and the ICRC visited sentenced political and unrest-related prisoners around the country over a two-week period.

The ICRC said last month talks were continuing with Minister of Law and Order Adriaan Vlok, to obtain authorisation to visit security detainees.

Ms Saddler explained that no public statement would be issued by the ICRC on its findings during the two-week visits because it was Red Cross policy not to comment publicly on findings of prison conditions.

A confidential report, containing the ICRC's findings and recommendations and including suggestions for changes and improvements, would however be sent to the "detaining authorities" (the Department of Justice and Correctional Services).

"We visit security prisoners in 40 countries throughout the world and the policy (not to go public) is necessary — otherwise in many countries we would never be allowed in," Ms Saddler said.

● The ICRC works closely with national Red Cross societies (known as the Red Crescent societies in Muslim countries), of which there are 137, with a combined membership of 250 million. These societies liaise with the ICRC but are more involved with immediate crises. □

Reforms aimed at solving jails crisis

B10day 7/5/91
THE increasing prison population and the need to eliminate prison backlogs with its attendant costs have forced government to restructure the Correctional Services Department and introduce community service sentences.

In a White Paper tabled in Parliament yesterday, the departments of Justice and Correctional Services project that the prison population will increase from the 110 000 in 1990 to 135 000 by the year 2000

Over-populated

"Bearing economic realities in mind, the increasing demand for the period in question (to 2000) does not appear to be viable or affordable," says the White Paper

Construction works and essential modernisation of existing prisons alone will require R2,5bn in the next 10 years, while prisons will be over-populated by 27,6%

Because of the nature of prisons and the method of supervising prisoners, the number of warders will have to increase from 22 000 to 34 000

This figure excludes the population of the self-governing and independent homelands

If those are included in SA in terms of a new constitution, all the figures will increase further, says the White Paper

The paper said SA had one of the highest prison populations in the world with 357

(253) 715191
BILLY PADDOCK

people per 100 000 of the population in prison during November 1990, compared with 42 in Sudan, 71 in France and 96 in the United Kingdom

In other countries, unsentenced prisoners were detained in prisons in exceptional cases only, while SA had 19 151 unsentenced prisoners, 17,9% of the total prison population at June 30 1990

"In financial terms, this means an annual expenditure of R131,375m, calculated at an average detention cost of R6 860 per prisoner per year"

It was generally accepted in penological circles in First World countries that community-based sentences were most cost-effective and efficient options having the least negative results

Options

The limited prison accommodation, therefore, should be kept for violent offenders while those responsible for less serious offences were kept out of prisons

While there was a large spectrum of alternative sentencing options that had been introduced over the past few years, "it is a fact that the further development of these options and the application thereof have become imperative", the White Paper says

New approach to handling prisoners

BILLY PADDOCK

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CAPE TOWN — Government has approved broadening the aims and support strategies of the Correctional Services Department to deal with prisoners in the most cost-effective and least restrictive manner.

It has submitted a White Paper to Parliament setting out in broad terms the three-pronged strategy to accomplish this.

The terms are

- Decentralising management according to business principles,
- Economising the department, and
- Developing and promoting the most economical and justifiable penological system.

To get the aims and strategy off the ground the department has initiated investigations into

- The reduction/restriction of the number of unsentenced prisoners;
- The reduction of the number of sentenced prisoners by introducing a system of correctional supervision,
- Phasing out the Central Release Board and implementing greater community involvement in the activities of institutional committees,
- The implementation of a system of strategic management units, and
- Restructuring the department.

The paper said once probation was introduced, offenders would be dealt with in a more balanced way and only those who were a threat to the community would be imprisoned.

Warning on overpopulation of jails

Star 7/5/91

253

Political Staff

South Africa has one of the highest prison populations in the world and, at the present rate of growth, prisons will become unaffordable and unviable in 10 years

This warning in a White Paper tabled in Parliament yesterday by the Department of Correctional Services underscores what the document says is an imperative need to "slow down" the growth rate

of the prison population by introducing a new form of community-service sentencing called "correctional supervision"

The White Paper says "It is generally accepted in penological circles in First World countries that community-based sentences are the most cost-effective and efficient options having the least negative results. Imprisonment as a sentence is diminishing worldwide and is making

place for community-based sentences"

It says the current wisdom is to keep less serious offenders out of prison

However, it notes that according to comparative figures, South Africa has one of the highest prison populations in the world

South Africa's high prison population, it says, has led to a mass handling of individual needs, a reduction of rehabilitation programmes, the earlier release of criminals, nega-

tive behavioural patterns in prisons and an increasing burden on the Treasury

The document says projections of South Africa's prison population show that the number of prisoners will increase from 110 000 in 1990 to 135 000 in the year 2000, an overpopulation figure of more than 27 percent

"Bearing economic realities in mind, the increasing demand for the period in question does not appear to be viable or affordable"

Bills herald revamp of penal system

Star 7/5/91
Political Staff

Far-reaching changes in South Africa's penal system are on the way with two new Bills due before Parliament soon providing for far wider use of community sentences instead of imprisonment.

The new legislation is intended to cut the chronic overcrowding in South Africa's prisons — which are among the most populated in the world — and to boost rehabilitation of offenders.

Introduced

The system, called "correctional supervision", based on research overseas last year by Minister of Justice Kobie Coetsee and senior officials, is likely to be introduced in pilot projects in the larger centres, if the legislation is approved.

It is expected to be dealt with during the justice budget debate tomorrow and on Friday.

Details are contained in a White Paper tabled in Parliament yesterday.

The document also spells out plans by the Department of Correctional Services to limit the time spent in jail by unsentenced prisoners, to reduce the overall prison population, to restructure prison operations along business lines so that products produced at prisons can be used more effectively, or sold, and for prisoners to receive better training and greater incentives to acquire skills.

The White Paper notes that while community-service sentences — widely applied overseas — have increased in South Africa, there is, among other factors, insufficient supervision to extend it.

It says one of the prime objectives of correctional supervision is to ensure that the offender maintains daily contact with the community of law-abiding citizens and does not become contaminated by hardened criminals.

It says it is imperative that correctional supervision be established as soon as possible in South Africa.

The White Paper notes

253
"When probation is eventually established countrywide, offenders will be dealt with in a more balanced manner and only those who constitute a threat to the community will be imprisoned, while a significant number of offenders will be effectively dealt with within the community."

"The growth of the prison population will be limited, and a more affordable penal system will be brought about which will be to the benefit of all South Africans."

Two draft Bills have been prepared and will be introduced this session.

The first is the Correctional Services and Supervision Matters Amendment Bill, which effectively amends the Prisons Act and the Criminal Procedure Act.

Among its provisions are

- An attorney-general or prosecutor has the power before judgment in a criminal case to reconsider the case and suspend proceedings so that the accused, on certain conditions, can be referred for correctional supervision.

- A court may impose correctional supervision and imprisonment as penalties, which can be converted by the Commissioner of Correctional Services into correctional supervision under certain conditions.

- On application by the commissioner, a court can convert imprisonment into correctional supervision or other punishment, and vice versa.

Supervision

- A juvenile offender in custody, instead of being released on bail or being kept in custody, may be placed under the supervision of a probation officer or correctional officer.

- A convicted person under 18 may be placed under the supervision of a correctional officer.

- The Minister of Justice may institute pilot projects to launch correctional supervision.

The second Bill, the Probation Services Bill, is intended to adjust the Probation Services Act to extend probation officers' functions relating to correctional supervision as a sentencing option.

Robben Island hunger strikers grow weaker

By Carina le Grange

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One political prisoner on a hunger strike collapsed yesterday, another began passing blood, and a third was in a very weak state, lawyers acting for the prisoners said late last night.

Human rights lawyer Willie Hofmeyr said families who visited Robben Island yesterday reported that Chris Mofokeng (24) from Soweto, who is serving a 21-year sentence, collapsed on the sixth day of the hunger strike which began on May 1. He has been admitted to the prison hospital.

Mofokeng was sentenced to imprisonment in 1988.

The families also said Mandla Shabangu (31) from Johannesburg was in a very weak state and had decided not to take water. Shabangu's death sentence for

treason was commuted to life imprisonment in 1983. He was originally convicted in 1981.

The last 40 Robben Island political prisoners started their hunger strike on May 1 in an attempt to secure their release and to prevent being moved to Pollsmoor Prison.

From Pretoria, lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) also last night informed The Star that Swapo guerrilla Leonard Sheehama, is "tired and had begun passing blood".

Comment

Sheehama is serving 10 years at Pretoria Local Prison for sabotage. LHR said according to their information, he had not yet received medical attention.

Department of Correctional Services spokesman Major Wena Greyling said last night it was the policy of the department not to comment on individuals or

groups of prisoners who are on hunger strike.

Providing the department's policy response, she said "Such persons are warned of the adverse effects of the hunger strike and they are treated strictly in accordance with internationally accepted guidelines pertaining to such persons."

She added that medical treatment was continually available to these prisoners and that a full record of their physical condition is kept.

Sheehama's original death sentence was overturned. According to LHR, he should not only have been "returned to Namibia under the conditions of Resolution 435", but he qualified for unconditional indemnity and release under regulations gazetted on April 24.

Mr Hofmeyr said there was cause for concern over the state of health of the Robben Island prisoners, as they had all taken part in an 11-day hunger strike in March last year.

APR 25 7 15/91

Prison system due for reform

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By MICHAEL MORRIS
Political Correspondent

FAR-REACHING changes in South Africa's penal system are on the way with two new Bills due before parliament soon providing for far wider use of community sentences instead of imprisonment

The new legislation is intended to cut the chronic overcrowding in prisons and to boost efforts to rehabilitate offenders

The system, called "correctional supervision" and based on research overseas last year by Minister of Justice Mr Kobie Coetsee and senior officials, is likely to be introduced at one of two of the larger centres as pilot projects, if the legislation is approved

It is expected to be dealt with during the Justice budget debate tomorrow and Friday

White Paper

Details are contained in a White Paper tabled in parliament yesterday

The document also spells out plans by the Department of Correctional Services to hold unsentenced prisoners in jails for a minimum period, to reduce the prison population, and to restructure its operations along business lines so that

Mr Kobie Coetsee

products produced at prisons can be used more effectively, or sold, and that prisoners receive better training and greater incentives to acquire skills to prepare them for civilian life

The White Paper notes that while community service sentences, widely applied overseas, have increased in South Africa, there is, among other factors, insufficient control and supervision to extend it

It says that one of the prime objectives of correctional supervision is to ensure the offender maintains daily contact with the community of law-abiding citizens and not become contaminated by hardened criminals in prisons

It says it is "imperative" that correctional supervision be established "as soon as possible" in South Africa

The White Paper notes

"When probation is eventually established country-wide, offenders will be dealt with in a more balanced manner and only those who constitute a threat to the community will be imprisoned, while a significant number of offenders will be effectively dealt with within the community

Logical option

"From the perspective of cost effectiveness as well as rehabilitation, this is the most logical option.

"In this process, the growth pattern of the prison population will be limited to a great extent and a more affordable penological system will be brought about which will be to the benefit of all in South Africa"

Two draft Bills have been prepared and will be introduced in parliament this session

The first is the Correctional Services and Supervision Matters Amendment Bill, which effectively amends the Prisons Act and the Criminal Procedure Act

The second Bill, the Probation Services Bill, is intended to adjust the Probation Services Act to extend probation officers' functions relating to correctional supervision as a sentencing option.

Bill will offer alternatives to detention

QMA - Tr 15 - 7/5/91

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Political Staff

THE increasing prison population and the need to eliminate backlogs in prisons, with attendant costs, have forced government to restructure the Correctional Services Department and introduce community sentences.

In a white paper tabled in Parliament yesterday, the departments of Justice and Correctional Services projected that the prison population would increase from the 110 000 in 1990 to 135 000 by 2000 even if the intervention was implemented.

In terms of the new system, anyone sentenced to "correctional supervision" will be subject to conditions laid down by the court, as well as others set down by the correctional officer.

Among the conditions which magistrates may impose is house arrest, which may be applied in certain cases, while electronic monitoring as operated in the United States is also

envisaged later

The paper said that compared to other countries, South Africa had one of the highest prison populations in the world with 357 people per 100 000 of the population in prison during November 1990

It was generally accepted in penological circles that community-based sentences were the most cost-effective and efficient options having the least negative results

While a considerable spectrum of alternative sentencing options had been introduced over the past few years, "further development of these options and the application thereof have become imperative", the White Paper said.

Draft bills will be introduced in Parliament soon, making provision for "correctional supervision" as a "sentencing option", the paper said

The White Paper states that if the legislation is approved in 1991, pilot schemes could be launched "without delay" in the larger centres

SA 'link to ...'



1399 *Hausward* WEDNESDAY, 8 MAY 1991 *Hausward* 1400

Mr A E REEVES Mr Chairman, arising from the hon the Minister's reply I would like to ask him if he intends removing all discrimination on TV 1 and TV 4, because the programmes are definitely all one-sided, designed for the Whites I want to know whether he intends to remove all discrimination, including the discrimination in respect of advertisement and quiz programmes in which only Whites are allowed to take part

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS Mr Chairman, I can merely say that the SABC's policy, as far as the use of news presenters and other personnel is concerned, is based on merit irrespective of race, colour or creed. As far as news presenters are concerned I may point out that we have men such as Mike Steinhack, Mohammed Sheik and Cobus Dowry and ladies

such as Veronica van der Westhuizen and Ursula Stapelveld

Mr A E REEVES Mr Chairman, further arising from the hon the Minister's reply, may I say that he did not reply to my question. My question was whether the hon the Minister was going to open up everything on television, because TV 1 and TV 4 is all White

The MINISTER Mr Chairman, everything is open. If the hon member has any problems, he must please bring them to my attention in writing. I will certainly submit them to the SABC, which is an autonomous body. I will certainly exert pressure on them if there is anything which does not satisfy hon members of this House

1401 *Hausward* FRIDAY, 10 MAY 1991 *Hausward* 1402

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs

Prisoners sentenced for political offences

302 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Correctional Services

- 253
- (1) Whether any (a) males and (b) females are still serving sentences for offences against the security of the State, if so, (i) how many in each category and (ii) in respect of what date is this information furnished,
 - (2) whether he will disclose the names of the prisoners referred to above, if not, why not, if so, what are their names,
 - (3) whether it is the intention to release these prisoners as part of a Government programme to release prisoners sentenced for political offences, if not, why not, if so, (a) why have they not been released as yet and (b) when is it anticipated that they will be released?

B790E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

(1), (2) and (3)

Prisoners who have previously for administrative reasons been classified as so called security prisoners are still there because they have otherwise also committed serious common law offences. The exception to the above is a number of PAC related prisoners who refuse to apply for release either through their organisation or on an individual basis.

Prisoners still in prison therefore who claim that they qualify for release as political prisoners are mainly serving sentences for serious offences, such as murder, attempted murder, robbery with aggravating circumstances, homicide or offences involving the infliction of serious injuries. These applications are being

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dealt with on an individual basis. At present there are more than 390 applications for release with the Consulting body for advice. Should the State President be so advised he may decide to effect further releases.

The total number of applications from prisoners for release are continually changing. For example, at 07 00 on 10 May 1991, 833 new applications had been received since 1 May 1991. A considerable percentage of these applications are opportunistically based.

Slobela Township: services discontinued

303 Mr M A TARR asked the Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing

- 253
- (1) Whether the Carolina Town Council recently discontinued the (a) supply of (i) water and (ii) electricity to and (b) removal of sewage and refuse from Slobela Township, if so, (aa) why and (bb) when were these services discontinued,
 - (2) whether this township's outstanding water account was settled by the Transvaal Provincial Administration approximately two weeks ago, if so, (a) how soon after this was the water supply to this township reconnected and (b) what was the reason for the delay in reconnecting it,
 - (3) whether there has been an (a) outbreak of (i) scabies and (ii) other infectious skin diseases and (b) increase in the incidence of (i) dysentery and (ii) gastro-enteritis in this township since the discontinuation of the water supply, if so,
 - (4) whether any action was taken to persuade the Carolina Town Council to reconnect the water supply to Slobela Township, if not, why not, if so, what action?

B791E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL HOUSING

(1) (a) (i) Yes

(ii) Yes

(b) No—the Town Committee render these services themselves

If the financial allocation to the academic hospital complexes for the 1990/91 financial year is divided by the number of beds in use on 31 December 1990, the following results are obtained

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Groote Schuur | R231 086 |
| Tygerberg | R161 220 |
| Baragwanath/Johannesburg | R100 729 |

The information as submitted in the reply to Question 168 is calculated as the cost per patient per day

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Groote Schuur | R358 182 827 |
| Tygerberg | R319 700 062 |
| Johannesburg | R189 164 900 |
| Baragwanath | R187 258 400, |

(2) no,
(3) no

Lawsuits against Minister of Justice

312 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Justice

(1) Whether any lawsuits were brought against him in 1990 in his capacity as Minister of Justice by members of the public, if so, (a) how many and (b) what (i) were the circumstances of the lawsuits, and (ii) was the outcome, in each case,

(2) whether he paid out any moneys in 1990 (a) as a result of successful lawsuits brought against him and (b) in out-of-court settlements, if so, what amounts in each case?

B788E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

(1) Yes

| | | |
|---------|--------|------------------------------|
| (a) 20 | | |
| (b) (i) | Number | Cause of action |
| | 3 | Malicious prosecution |
| | 15 | Unlawful arrest or detention |
| | 2 | Defamation |

| | | | | |
|------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|----------------|
| (ii) | Successful law-suits against Minister | Claims settled out of court | Claims not proceeded with by the plaintiff | Claims pending |
| | | 2 | 2 | 8 |

(2) (a) Yes

P Govender — Unlawful deprivation of liberty — R 600,63
E Mashumi — Appeal pending

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------|
| (b) Yes — R25 850,00 | Unlawful deprivation of liberty | R 4 250,00 |
| Mashaba M J — Unlawful arrest | Unlawful deprivation of liberty | R 2 500,00 |
| Pale F M — Unlawful arrest | Unlawful arrest | R 6 000,00 |
| Mkwanazi J — Unlawful arrest | Unlawful deprivation of liberty | R 4 400,00 |
| Magqabi M — Unlawful deprivation of liberty | Unlawful deprivation of liberty | R 2 500,00 |
| Ntubula M — Unlawful deprivation of liberty | Unlawful deprivation of liberty | R 1 200,00 |
| Motha J S — Unlawful deprivation of liberty | Unlawful deprivation of liberty | R 5 000,00 |
| Mashele R A — Unlawful deprivation of liberty | Unlawful deprivation of liberty | R 25 850,00 |

The amount includes settlements reached pursuant to letters of intention to institute action and actions instituted before 1990 but settled during 1990

Legal Aid Board: services suspended

313 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Justice

Whether any legal aid services were suspended by the Legal Aid Board in 1990, if so, (a) (i) which services and (ii) for what period and (b) why were these services suspended?

B789E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

No legal aid services were suspended by the Legal Aid Board in 1990 in the sense that and for certain cases and/or specific procedural steps were excluded from the Legal Aid Board's legal aid scheme

Certain prescriptions which the Legal Aid Board included in its legal aid manual in 1988, to ensure that funds are appropriated for worthy cases are, however, still in force. These prescriptions pertain to legal aid for appeals in criminal and civil matters and determine that aid will not be granted unless the Director of the Legal Aid Board is convinced that there is a reasonable prospect for success on appeal. Legal aid for claims justiciable in the Small Claims Court was also not granted in 1990. The policy that authorisation for instructions to advocates for appearances in magistrates' and regional courts and instructions to senior advocates only be given by the Director and that he will do so in exceptional cases, was maintained in 1990.

The restrictions that were imposed on money payable to legal practitioners in April and December 1988 were maintained during 1990 in the following matters

- Divorces and related cases
- Petitions and applications after the imposition of the death sentence
- Industrial court cases

The restrictions pertaining to these matters, were as follows

Divorce and related cases

The maximum tariff paid was R750 if one attorney was involved and R1 000 if two attorneys were involved. Provided that if permission was granted for the institution or defence of interlocutory actions, legal costs

therefor could have been allowed in addition to the legal costs for the main action. Provided further that the legal costs for the interlocutory action were restricted on the legal aid tariff to a maximum of R500 if one attorney was involved and R750 if two attorneys were involved. The Director has a discretion to increase the latter fees in appropriate circumstances

A further qualification on this restriction is that an attorney is free to present an attorney-client bill of cost to the Legal Aid Board. If this is done, the bill is taxed by the Legal Aid Board and the taxed bill minus 20% is payable to the attorney

Petitions relating to the death sentence

Legal costs pertaining to petitions and applications after the imposition of the death sentence, were restricted to a maximum of R500 per petition or application on legal aid tariffs

Industrial court matters

For a consultation if section 43 proceedings were not instituted—the moneys as prescribed for a consultation in scale C of the tariff in the Magistrates' Courts Rules, minus 20%, if section 43 proceedings were instituted—the moneys as prescribed in scale C of the tariff in the Magistrates' Courts Rules, minus 20%, to a maximum of R250. The Director of the Legal Aid Board has the authority to grant legal aid in meritorious cases and to increase or remove restrictions

The above restrictions were imposed in an effort by the Legal Aid Board to keep its expenses on legal costs within the bounds of its budget, and to utilise the available funds for the benefit of as many needy people as possible

Sentenced prisoners: mental patients

327 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Correctional Services

How many sentenced prisoners were transferred to mental institutions in 1990?

B859E

1391

Hansard

WEDNESDAY, 8 MAY 1991

Hansard

1392

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Seventy one (71) This figure includes two (2) prisoners who were admitted to the hospital prisons for psychopaths in terms of section 30 of the Mental Health Act, 1973 (Act No 18 of 1973) as amended

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Public violence persons charged/convicted

331 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Justice

- (1) (a) How many persons were charged with public violence in each specified magisterial district in 1990 and (b) what total number of persons so charged were subsequently convicted,
- (2) whether bail was granted to the accused in any of these cases, if not, why not, if so, in how many cases,
- (3) whether any charges of public violence were withdrawn, if so, how many,
- (4) whether any of the persons so charged were under the age of 18 years, if so, how many in each case,
- (5) whether these persons were prosecuted in terms of the provisions of the Children's Act, No 33 of 1960, if not, (a) why not and (b) who took the decision in this regard?

B860E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

- (1) (a) and (b) The required information is not readily available in the Department. In an effort to be of assistance to the hon member, the following information was obtained from the Central Statistical Service for the period 1 July 1989 to 30 June 1990

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| <i>Cape Province</i> | |
| Cape Peninsula | 47 |
| Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage | 0 |
| East London | 0 |
| Kimberley | 0 |
| Other urban areas | 42 |
| Rural areas | 5 |
| Total | 94 |

Total convictions

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

1393

Hansard

WEDNESDAY, 8 MAY 1991

Hansard

1394

Prisons Service: members of certain union suspended

338 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Correctional Services

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- (1) Whether any persons were suspended from the Prisons Service in 1990 as a result of activities that took place in connection with their membership of a certain union, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, if so, (a) how many and (b) what is the name of the union in question,
- (2) how many such persons (a) resigned, (b) were dismissed from service and (c) (i) have been reinstated in service and (ii) in respect of what date is this information furnished,
- (3) whether any disciplinary proceedings were instituted and/or are pending against such persons, if so, (a) what proceedings and (b) with what results?

B882E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

- (1) No members were suspended on account of their connection with a certain union. After long and positive involvement with personnel who were on strike, several members were suspended and a few probationary warders were dismissed. Some of the members had connections with the union referred to by the hon member
- (a) 647
- (b) The same as furnished by the hon member
- (2) (a) One Member resigned voluntarily on 22 March 1990
- (b) In terms of Prisons Regulation 8(6)(d), the services of nine probationary warders were terminated whilst on strike—suspensions were not relevant in this instance. I also refer the hon member to my written reply to Question 143 in the House of Assembly on 25 April 1991 in which further dismissals which followed at a later stage as a result of inquiries in terms of Prisons Regulation 77(1), are further elucidated

Unit cost per prisoner

332 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Correctional Services
What was the unit cost per prisoner per day in the 1989-90 financial year?

B861E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

R18,67

- (c) (i) and (ii) By 30 May 1990 suspension orders against 644 members (one member resigned, one member could not be traced and one member died) had been lifted
- (3) (a) and (b) I refer the hon member to my written reply to Question 143 in the House of Assembly on 25 April 1991

Petitions presented by staff: action

340 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Correctional Services

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Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 143 on 25 April 1991, he will furnish details of the action taken by the prison authorities to deal with the grievances stated in the petitions presented by members of his Department to the authorities at various prisons between 21 and 23 March 1990, if not, why not, if so, what are the details?

Hon Serrini

B910E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Yes
In order to bring the allegations into perspective I wish to direct the hon member's attention to the fact that although certain grievances did have substance, there were others with little or no substance. The origin of these grievances can primarily be attributed to incorrect/distorted perceptions which were the result of ignorance of policy matters
In view of the fact that members who were involved with the striking did not air their grievances by means of the official communication channel as contained in Prisons Regulation 87, the existence and functioning of the communication channel was again brought to the attention of all members and commanding officers were also sensitised in this regard
In those cases where the existence of grievances could be attributed to incorrect/distorted perceptions all members country-wide were enlightened on the relevant policy matters. The other grievances had already been contained in a comprehensive manpower plan and were being addressed

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Arising from this manpower plan all disparity which existed with regard to medical benefits of members were removed on 1 April 1990

Policy has recently been approved providing for the implementation of work stations of which the main goal is to promote communication between employer and management supplementary to the existing communication/information channels Where the existing communication channel (Prisons Regulation 87) is aimed at dealing with personnel's complaints and grievances on an individual basis, the work stations give personnel the opportunity to discuss matters with management on a collective basis However, work stations are not primarily a channel for airing complaints but will also be utilised to create organisational culture, improve quality and productivity and build morale

Policy has also recently been approved making provision for inter alia the consolidation of existing general clubs in order to be accessible to all members as well as the consolidation of the various accounts of the Benefit Fund This

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also means that holiday houses are now accessible to all members Against the background of the Government's initiatives new policy with regard to the official housing on prison reserves has already been approved In terms of this new policy living accommodation on premises country-wide is now accessible to all personnel in accordance with Prisons Regulation 25 This implies the discretionary allocation of accommodation by Commanders at the hand of inter alia functional requirements and the principle of merit and efficiency

The aforementioned policy will naturally not result in an overnight change in the current situation A progressive phasing-in will be followed in order to prevent large-scale disruption, costs, dissatisfaction and artificiality

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 QUESTIONS
 Indicates translated version
 For oral reply
 General Affairs
 Questions standing over from Wednesday, 24 April 1991
 Trans-Karoo bookings: race groups
 *1 Mr T R GEORGE asked the Minister for Economic Co-ordination and Public Enterprises

- (1) Whether the race of persons booking accommodation on the Trans-Karoo train is taken into account in the allocation of such accommodation, if so, why,
- (2) whether the names of persons who have booked accommodation on this train are listed separately according to race groups, if so, why,
- (3) whether persons making such bookings telephonically are required to state what race group they belong to, if not, what procedure is followed in this regard, if so, why,
- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

C75B

THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC CO-ORDINATION AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
 The Managing Director of Transnet Limited replied as follows to the hon member's question

- (1) No
- (2) Yes A computer program was designed to satisfy specific preferences of clients This program is at present in a process of amendment to provide only one name list which is compiled in alphabetical order
- (3) No Should the client, however, indicate a specific preference, this is taken into account
- (4) No

*Mr A E REEVES Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I want to ask who, in fact, is the head of the Department, the Managing Director or the Minister, because he said the Managing Director had furnished the reply and we are constantly being referred to the Managing Director

THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC CO-ORDINATION AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
 Mr Chairman, Transnet is not a department The Managing Director is the head of the company Transnet and that is why it is in this case the Managing Director of Transnet who furnishes information of this nature

Coloured television channel
 *2 Mr T R GEORGE asked the Minister of Home Affairs

- (1) Whether he will take steps in regard to having a television channel introduced for the Coloured population group, if so, (a) what steps and (b) when, if not, why not,
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

C78E

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

- (1) (a) and (b) To date I have received no application for a television channel for the Coloured population group and such a channel is also not envisaged Television is a very expensive broadcasting medium and the viability of such a service will naturally play a very big role in the consideration thereof There is, therefore, no intention to introduce apartheid as far as television is concerned [Interjections]
- (2) The Task Group Broadcasting in South and Southern Africa, is presently by direction of the Government, investigating the overall broadcasting industry The report of the Task Group is expected to be submitted to Government during July 1991 and all applications will have to be considered on the basis of decisions Government might take after studying the report, with due regard to the interest of all viewers and against the background of affordability

... reform the ANC's constitution would also be finalised

Star 8/5/91, (253)
Let us out, too, plead criminals

Common-law prisoners at Pretoria Central Prison have asked President de Klerk to pardon them because they want to be part of a new South Africa

In an open letter to Mr de Klerk, the men said "We want to be part of the new South Africa you propose, therefore we ask to be pardoned Especially the long-term prisoners"

The letter, signed by 465 prisoners, said political prisoners had already been assisted "We place all our trust in you as a person and leader to pardon us," they added

A sample of applications for release received from common criminals included crimes such as rape, murder, housebreaking, dealing in Mandrax, and fraud

M

And ten Major to Federal lets further pending

Trad

Black are the of a committee may be strong to end Traders Committee

Croc re

A 2 m crocodile captured after escaping from farm near

Machines



Lawyers claim hunger strikers being victimised

253

Star 8/5/91.
By Carina le Grange

As a hunger strike by nearly 230 political prisoners entered its seventh day yesterday, lawyers claimed that prisoners in some jails have had privileges withheld since embarking on the fast.

The Department of Correctional Services said last night that "all prisoners are treated according to prevailing prison rules and regulations and the allegations to the contrary are rejected".

At least three of the hunger strikers are reported to be in a weak

condition. Lawyers for Human Rights said another two, in Bethal Prison, were yesterday taken in wheelchairs to see visiting lawyers.

Cape Town human rights lawyer Willie Hofmeyr said Robben Island prisoner Chris Mofokeng (24), who had been admitted to the prison hospital after collapsing on Monday, was yesterday moved to a mainland prison.

A message from the Hunger Strike Support Committee on the island said Musa Nkaoto, of Johannesburg, had lost 4 kg a day since the

strike began. Also reported to be in a weak condition are Mandla Shabangu (31) and Swapo guerilla Leonard Sheehama in Pretoria Local.

The prisoners are on strike in protest at what they see as the Government's failure to honour the Pretoria Minute.

It is alleged that cells have been searched, items removed, exercise and recreational privileges refused or curtailed and that two prisoners who are studying have been threatened with withdrawal of study privileges.

'Other ways of taking food'

There were 23 prisoners on Robben Island who were not taking meals supplied by the Department of Correctional Services, the Minister, Kobie Coetsee, said while replying to the Justice vote last night.

"Note the wording," he said

Another two prisoners, Chris Mofokeng and Thabo Memela, who had been admitted to hospital, were recovering.

The hunger strikers on Robben Island were not, in terms of the Tokyo Declaration, being force fed, Mr Coetsee said.

"There are other ways of taking and obtaining food"

A total of 37 prisoners would remain on Robben Island after the release of three yesterday (253)

Mr Coetsee said the people who were persuading prisoners to go on hunger strikes did so because they wanted to interfere with the system

agreed upon between the Government and organisations like the ANC.

"The Government does not approve of the people

who are encouraging hunger strikes for the sake of enforcing their own views. They should be dissuaded by other

people of influence to desist from this practice."

Sapa

(253)
ARCT 9/5/71

Hunger striking under attack

Political Correspondent

MINISTER of Justice Mr Kobie Coetsee has launched a strong attack on people who influenced prisoners to go on hunger strikes.

Speaking last night at the end of the first day of the debate on the Justice and Correctional Services budget, he confirmed that three prisoners were to be released from Robben Island, that of the 37 who remained, 32 were "not taking meals supplied by the department" and that two prisoners had been admitted to hospital and were receiving medical attention.

"One prisoner whose condition was a matter of concern is already mobile again," he said.

He said the condition of prisoners was being closely monitored by medical staff.

But Mr Coetsee hit out at people who persuaded prisoners to embark on hunger strikes.

"They do so because they want to enforce their view, their will on a system agreed on between us and, for instance, the ANC."

This was a system which had to be reliable and legitimate.

Island prisoners freed

Sowetan 10/5/91
THREE more political prisoners were set free on Wednesday night.

Mr David Moise (35), of Sebokeng, Mr Mandla Shabangu (31), of Johannesburg, and Mr Rufus Nzo (32), of Port Elizabeth were released from Robben Island where 37 other political prisoners are on a hunger strike

Moise and Shabangu were sentenced to death for attempting to blow up Sasol 2, but their sentences were later commuted to life imprisonment.

Nzo was serving a 20-year prison sentence for treason, terrorism and for the possession of arms.

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Political Correspondent

The three left the island and their fellow inmates with great difficulty.

Excruciating pain

"We did so with excruciating pain," Moise said on arrival in Cape Town on Wednesday night

According to the Ministry of Justice, the release of prisoners would continue until no more applications for amnesty were received.



Countrywide protests in support of ultimatum

Weekly Mail, Reporters and Sapa
TEN days after the launch of a nationwide hunger strike by political prisoners, one prisoner has been hospitalised after collapsing and another is in "a very weak state", the Hunger Strike Support Committee has reported.

The committee also said there was wide concern over the health of fasting Robben Islanders, as all had been involved in a hunger strike in March last year. Island prisoner Mandla Shabangu (31), serving life imprisonment for his role in the bombing of Sasol 2, was in a weak state and was refusing to drink, as liquids caused him nausea.

Prisoners at Pretoria local reported a weight loss of 5kg each since the current strike began on May 1.

A total of 206 prisoners are known to be refusing food over demands that the government honour its undertaking in the Pretoria Minute to release all prisoners by April 30. Hunger strikes have been reported at 14 prisons.

Lawyers are investigating complaints by prisoners at some jails that privileges have been removed or curtailed since the strike began, the committee said.

At Pretoria local, it claimed, prisoners had been refused exercise and were not allowed to shower. At Diepkloof, exercise time had been cut to one hour a day and strikers were no longer allowed to watch television or engage in recreational activities.

Diepkloof prisoners also complained they had been threatened with the withdrawal of study privileges and that their condition was not being adequately monitored by prison doctors. "Some have not been weighed since the hunger strike started," the committee said.

And in other mass protest action this week, hundreds of African National Congress members, many of them women, were arrested after country-wide pickets over demands that the government act to end violence.

The protests were designed to intensify pressure in the run-up to the ANC's May 9 ultimatum.

In Durban, 300 people were arrested — 200 of them students of the University of Durban-Westville — on charges ranging from demonstrating without a municipal permit to trespass.

Thirty members of the ANC Women's League holding placards outside the Pietersburg Town Council offices were arrested by a contingent of heavily armed police, while 37 placard protesters were arrested outside the British Embassy and police museum in Pretoria. Police said the museum arrests had been carried out when demonstrators ignored an order to disperse.

According to Joyce Mabudhafasi, a member of the ANC's Northern Transvaal executive, three buses from the University of the North were turned back by police outside Pietersburg and escorted back to the campus. Thirty-three ANC women were charged with trespass after a sit-in and picket at the Nelspruit police station. Arrests were also reported in Alwal North and East London. Complaining that Nelspruit police had refused the arrested women visits and fresh clothing, Eastern Transvaal ANC spokesman Jackson Mthembu said this "fuelled suspicion that the SAP has no interest in working for peace and stability in South Africa". In Port Elizabeth, Women's League members conducted a flying picket at police stations. Demonstrations lasting between 10 and 15 minutes were held in areas such as kwaZakhele, Zwide, Swartkops and Motherwell, as well as the conservative suburb of Algoa Park, before being broken up by police. Police prevented the women from gathering outside the new law courts in town, which was to have been a central rallying point for a lunch-hour picket.

DEATH ROW ^{FM 10/15/91}
~~253~~ 253
NO TO NOFOMELA

Butane Almond Nofomela — the man whose allegations of death squads in the security police led to the Harms Commission — has had his appeal rejected for his death sentence to be commuted

Nofomela's revelations from the death cell led to a stay of execution. Now his case will go back to the Appeal Court for re-examination but, if no extenuating circumstances are found for his murder of a Brits farmer, his only remaining avenue will be an appeal for clemency to the State President.

In October 1989 Nofomela gave the Lawyers for Human Rights organisation explicit and extensive allegations about the assassination of human rights lawyer Griffiths Mxenge at the hands, he said, of members of his unit commanded by Captain Dirk Coetzee

The unit, he added, fell under Section C1 of Pretoria security branch headquarters Nofomela claimed he made his revelations

continue

FM 10/15/91

~~253~~ 253

CURRENT AFFAIRS

because his superior officer, Major Eugene Kok, had allegedly told him he would get him off Death Row — but then, one day before his scheduled execution, told him to "take the pain."

Nofomela last year applied for his case to be re-examined by the Review Board set up

in terms of new legislation on the death penalty. Had the board found that the trial court hearing his case might have imposed a lesser sentence under the new legislation, his sentence would have been commuted. Twenty-seven other Death Row prisoners have had their sentences commuted in the past

two months as a result of the Review Board procedure. All except one are political prisoners

New sentences range from 10 years to life imprisonment. The political prisoners have applied for release in terms of the Groote Schuur and Pretoria Minutes. *Charlene Smith*



Six hunger strikers to be released

253
of 11/15/91

By BARRY STREEK

ANOTHER seven political prisoners, including six hunger strikers on Robben Island, are to be released immediately, the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, said yesterday.

The new releases will leave 31 political prisoners on Robben Island, 19 of whom are on hunger strike in protest against their continued detention, and "10 to 15" in Pretoria Central Prison.

Mr Coetsee also defended the government's actions over the release of the political prisoners and said its actions had been "balanced, just and fair to everyone".

Although 1 190 applications for release were currently being processed, most of them had been received after April 23

The International Red Cross Com-

THE last remaining prisoners on Robben Island — on the ninth day of their hunger strike — are still firm in their commitment in spite of obvious physical weakness, according to a statement released through attorney Mr Willie Hofmeyr yesterday.

"Our determination becomes stronger because we know our cause and demands are just," the statement read.

"These are ugly and unwelcome developments and the government should do all in its power to resolve the disputes."

"Delays, the placing of obstacles in the path, must be eliminated."

By yesterday morning, 1 971 applications for release had been received, of which 1 089 were received after April 23, Mr Coetsee said.

mittée was also playing an important role by visiting all prisons to make sure everyone eligible knew the procedures

Mr Coetsee spoke yesterday during the debate on his vote and replied to a question tabled by the Democratic Party's justice spokesman, Mr David Dalling

Mr Dalling said during the debate it was common cause that hunger strikes were actually taking place in protest against the delays in finalising individual cases



DEFIANT PROTEST ... A woman signals her displeasure during yesterday's illegal march around the city, which ended in about 300 arrests outside Parliament.

Picture BENNY GOOL

of 17/5/91

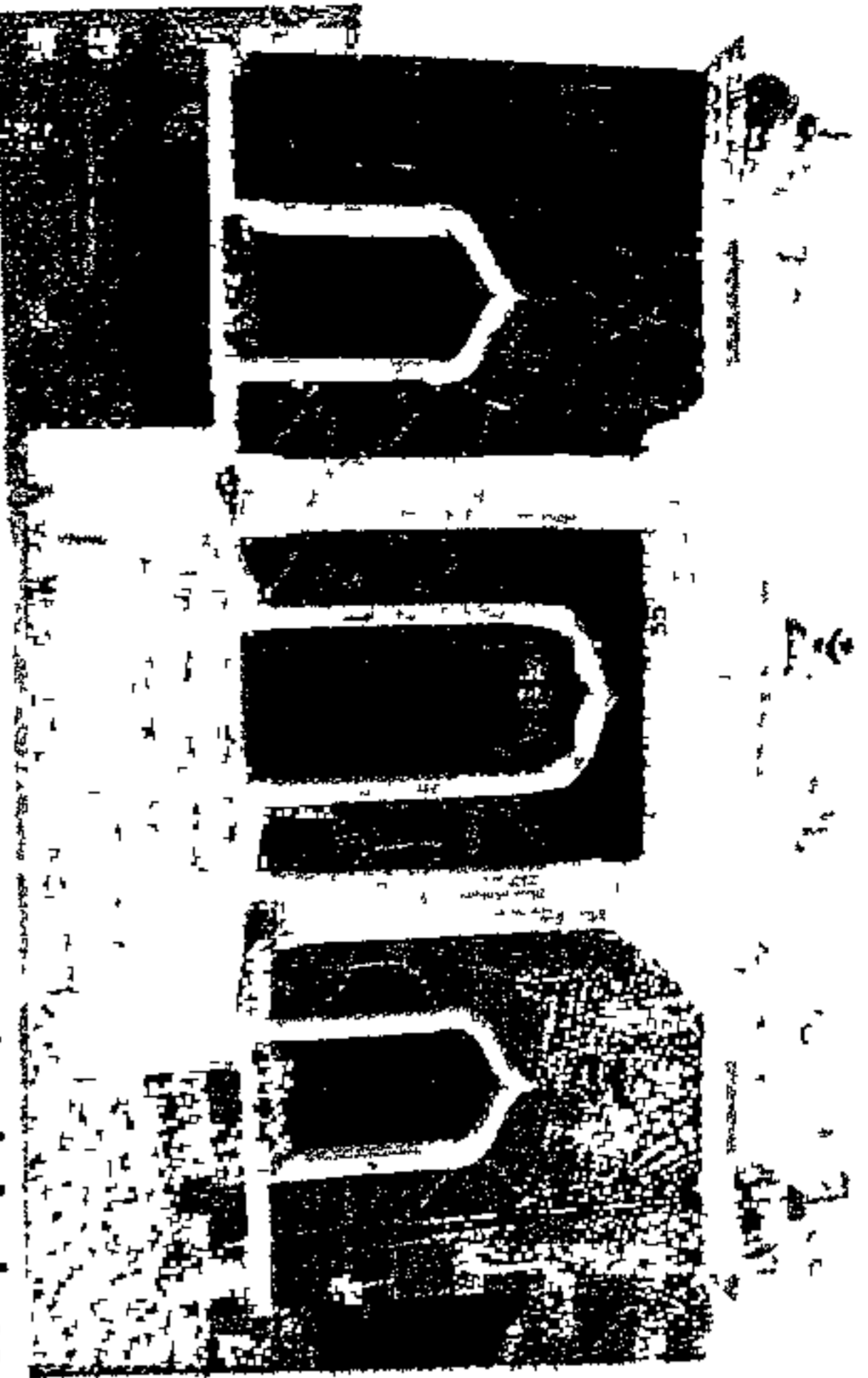
Europe call to free prisoners

Own Correspondent

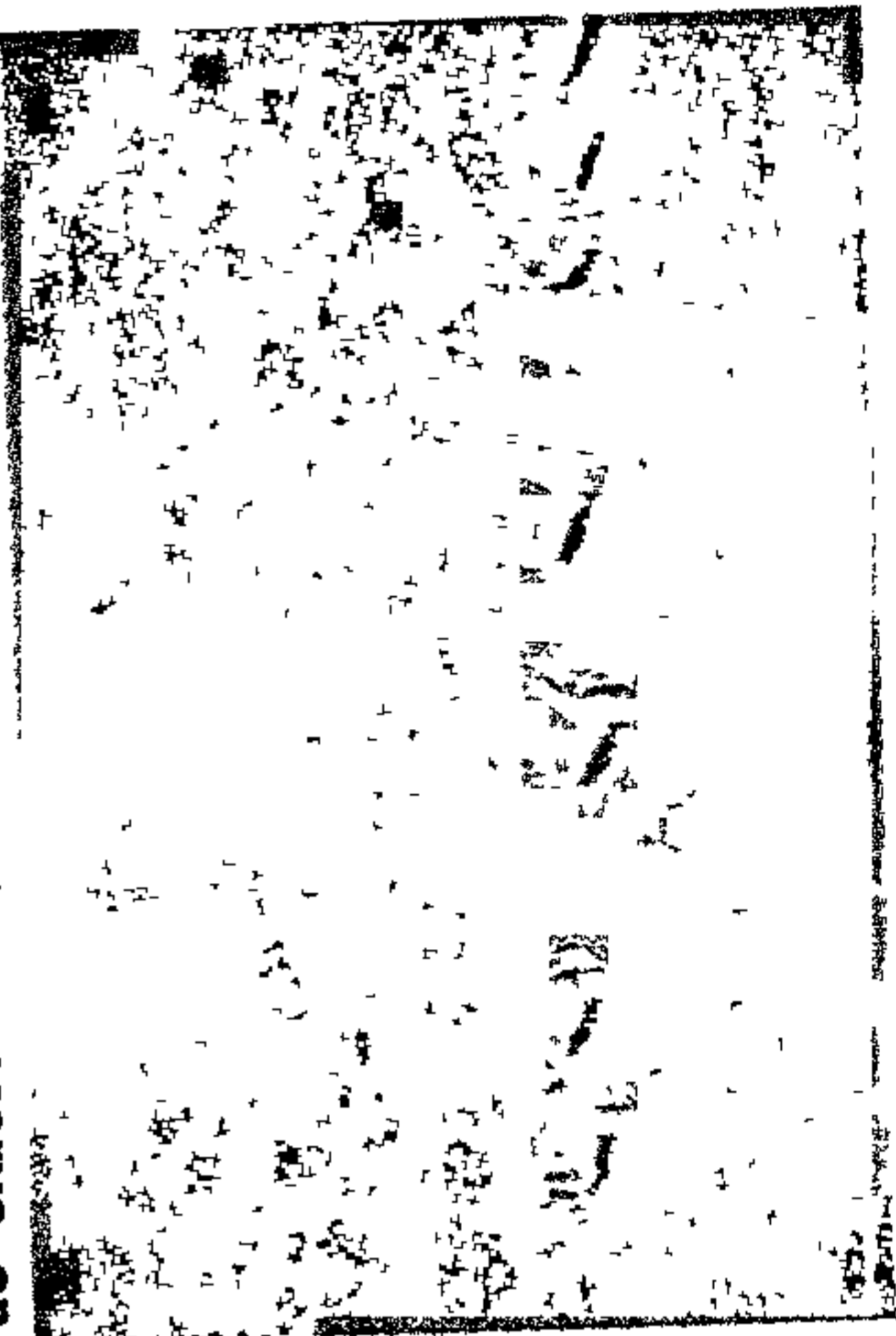
LONDON. — In a wide ranging resolution on South Africa, the European Parliament in Strasbourg yesterday called for the immediate release of political prisoners on hunger strike in South Africa

In a vote dominated by left-wing parties but also supported by conservatives and social-democrats, the parliament approved, by 146 to 92 a resolution on South Africa, which also urged the European Council of Ministers to "maintain all the existing pressures until the South African government has removed all obstacles to negotiations"

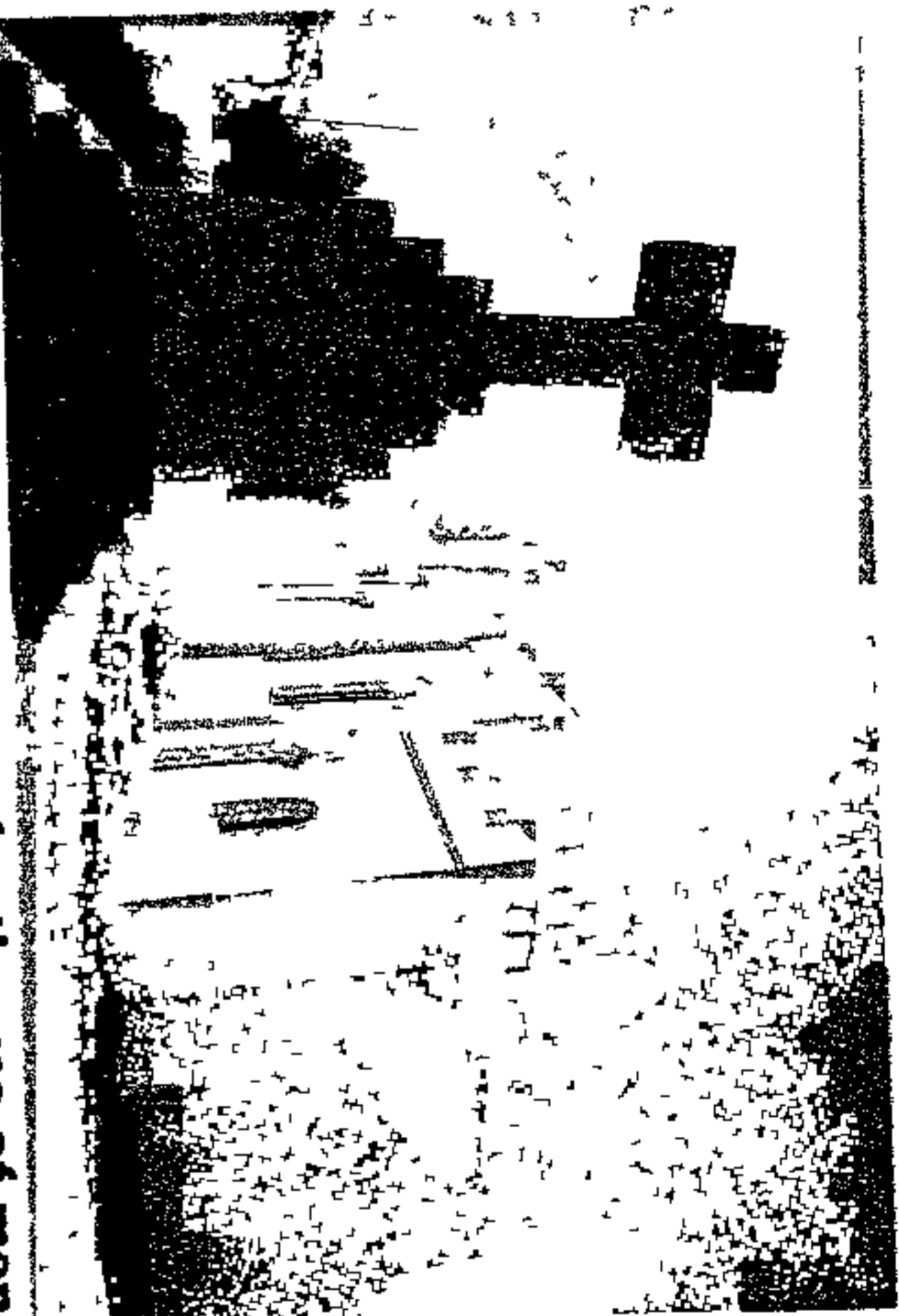
The resolution opposed any moves to relax oil, arms and nuclear sanctions



The kramat, or holy shrine, the burial place of the King of Madura.



Springbok thrive in the nature reserve on the island.



The little leper church was for the use of men only.



World War 2 gun emplacement, still intact on Robben Island.

Robben Island — according to the Future of Robben Island Committee's chronicle of historical milestones — has been a source of food for early mariners; a refuge from mainland cannibals; a leper colony; hospital for

the insane; dog quarantine station and prison for political exiles, not just in recent years but many times over the past 200 years. During World War 2 it became a fortress with harbour, airstrip and gun emplacements.

In 1965, it assumed a new role as a prison, achieving world-wide notoriety because many of the inmates were political prisoners. Now the prisons authorities are soon to move out. What will become of the Robben

Island after that? This is a chance for readers of WEEKEND ARGUS to have their say, to put forward their suggestions and views about what the role of the island should be in a new South Africa?

Pictures —
JIM MCLAGAN
Weekend Argus



ARGUS 11/5/91

Will it ever be open sooner? Tell us

By JANIS FRASER 253
Weekend Argus Reporter

IT has been dubbed "Cape Town's Alcatraz": Robben Island lies 10km off Cape Town, to the casual eye, if not the to the inmates, the perfect holiday getaway.

Even when the mainland is battered by winter rain and and gripped by cold the little 507ha island is often bathed in sunshine, the peculiarities of the mountainous mainland creating its own small eco-climate.

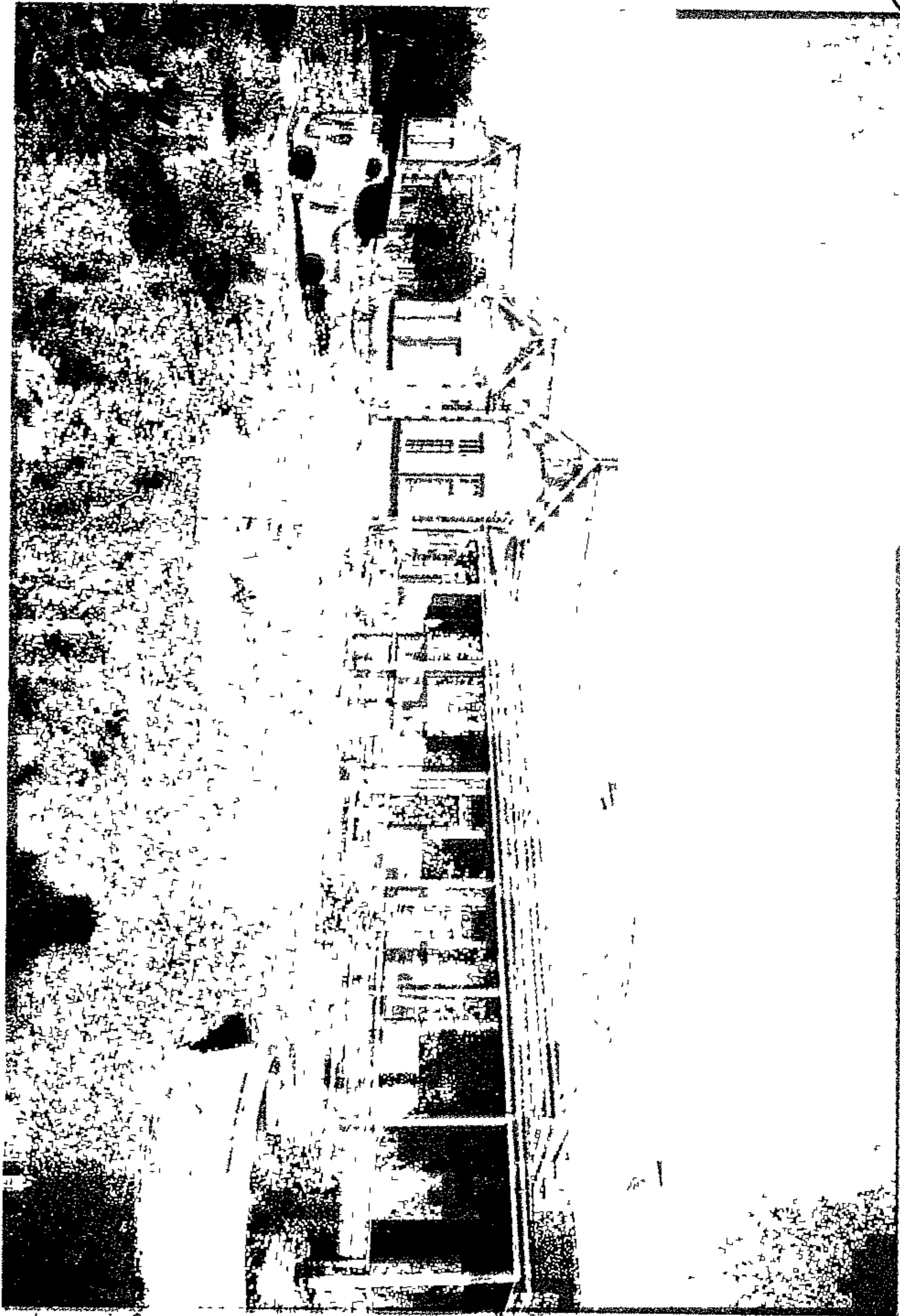
For almost three decades, since the Prisons Department took it over from the Navy, the name of Robben Island and its inevitable link with long-term inmate Mr Nelson Mandela, has become synonymous with the evils of apartheid.

The Commissioner of Correctional Services Lieutenant-General W H Willemse says although the political prisoners will soon be gone, there are still 400 criminal prisoners in the medium-security jail.

He sees the island remaining under his department's control and taking the overflow from Pollsmoor.

But who — and what — else is waiting in the wings?

There was hotel tycoon Sol Kerzner's plan to develop the island as a casino, the National Monuments Council has declared the surrounding waters — rich with wrecks — a conservation area, the Royal Cape Yacht Club already has a foot in the door with a mooring there, the ANC is strongly in favour of turning the island into a monument to those who have been imprisoned there and are equally



strongly opposed to its becoming "a flip-flop place of decadent pleasure".
A large part of the island is controlled by the Department of Nature Conservation and bird and wildlife abound.
An announcement on the government's plans for the island is expected soon, but meanwhile Weekend Argus wants to can-

vas readers' views
Fill in the coupon below and post it or drop it off at the front counter of Newspaper House, 122 St George's Street, Cape Town, to reach us by Wednesday (May 15). That's not much time, so hurry! Tell us, as briefly as possible, what you see for the future of Robben Island.

Above: Colonial architecture in the harbour settlement is still in mint condition.

A GLIMPSE FROM WITHIN

By CAROLYN MCGIBBON
Weekend Argus Reporter

A GLIMPSE behind the prison walls on Robben Island was gleaned recently when an ex-prisoner smuggled out photographs taken in the cells.

The pictures showed metal double bunk beds and a prisoner in regulation blue striped pyjamas reading last Sunday's newspaper.

On the walls of his cell was a poster that said: "Keep your promises De Klerk!"

Also in his cell were photographs of Joe Slovo and Nelson Mandela, and a picture of the red flag. A radio, potted plant and magazines were laid out on the bedside table, which also served as a desk.

Other personal possessions were kept in an apple box above the bed.

It is understood that the prisoners photographed in the pictures have now been questioned by prison officials.

Robben Island has been regarded as the "university" of the liberation movements since 1965 when it was used almost exclusively to incarcerate political prisoners. Nelson Mandela spent most of his imprisonment on the island.

Before that it was a leper colony, prison for political exiles and lunatic asylum.

The department of Correctional Services intends using the prison to house common criminals in the medium term. However plans are being considered to turn the island into a national park to conserve its historical and environmental heritage.

Nick Malherbe, chairman of the Future of Robben Island Committee said he expected the government to make a decision soon.

Much would need to be done to make the island viable under the National Parks Board including a water pipeline, sewage works, harbour facilities and the cost of stationing the National Sea Rescue Institute there.

He suggested the entire village on the island could be turned into a "larger Matjiesfontein" with the restoration of the 22 Victorian buildings and Sir Herbert Baker homes.

"It would be magnificent," he believes. The Parks Board is indeed interested in the idea and its director, Robbie Robertson has recently returned from a visit to Rottnest Island off Perth, a former leper colony where aborigines were later incarcerated, which has now been redeveloped.

TICK THE SUGGESTION YOU DECIDE ON:

- 1 A nature reserve and restored Victorian resort.....
 - 2 The prison converted to a hotel.....
 - 3 A casino.....
 - 4 A modern holiday development.....
 - 5 Retaining the island, undeveloped, as a monument..
 - Any other suggestion
- NAME:
- ADDRESS:.....
- Send your form to Robben Island write-in, Weekend Argus, Box 56, Cape Town 8000.
- CODE:.....

White paper's penal reforms could lighten load on jails

FORMER Trust Bank employee Stephanus Johannes Becker, 32, was found guilty this week of 10 counts of fraud involving R100 000. But he was not sent to jail where he would have served his time with hard-core criminals.

His sentence, imposed by the Parow regional court, was R25 000 or two years, postponed for five years — provided that he did 1 000 hours of supervised community service.

And, if a white paper tabled before Parliament this week becomes law, the sentence imposed on Becker could become more common.

Thousands of offenders could benefit from a new, enlightened penal policy. Like Becker, they would be able to do community service under strict supervision. They would avoid the stigma of imprisonment and the traumatic effect this could have on their families.

Discretion

This approach to sentencing is already widely accepted in most First World countries.

If the white paper is accepted, the proposals could become law as early as this parliamentary session.

The white paper, which calls for the restructuring of the Justice and Correctional (formerly Prison) Services Department, estimates that the prison population will increase from 110 000 in 1990 to 135 000 by 2000, even if the proposed penal changes are made.

In future, magistrates and judges could have wide discretion to impose different types of sentences on various categories of offenders. Conditions would vary from case to case.

Limits

Violent offenders, however, would have to be kept in prison for the safety of the community.

If another recommendation is accepted, South Africa could introduce house arrest monitored by a hi-tech electronic system. The system, in use in the United States, allows an offender to serve his sentence at home while wearing a special device that alerts the police if he strays beyond the limits of his confinement.

South Africa has one of the highest per capita prison populations in the world with 357 per 100 000 people

By NORMAN WEST

30 last year, 19 151 unsentenced prisoners were in detention, representing 17.9 percent of the total prison population. According to the white paper, this cost the taxpayer R131-million.

The option of community service under supervision, it was hoped, would considerably slow the growth in the prison population.

Community service would be strictly monitored by special officials and subject to conditions laid down by the court which imposed the sentence.

Supervision could also include house arrest, whereby an offender would not be allowed to leave home between certain times.

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Ban

But serving a sentence under supervision would be no picnic. Offenders would have their movements, work attendance and participation in community programmes monitored at all times.

There would be an alcohol ban, restriction of association with "undesirable" people and supervision of the paying of compensation to victims.

Violation of service conditions could lead to various restrictions, including arrest and imprisonment for 60 days or even a request to the court to cancel the order of correctional supervision and to impose another sentence.

in prison during November 1990, compared with 42 per 100 000 in Sudan, 71 in France, 96 in England and 426 in the US.

And, while research has shown that in most First World countries, people awaiting sentencing are kept in prison only in exceptional cases, the opposite happens here.

In South Africa on June

Hunger-strikers moved to mainland hospital

By DENNIS CRUYWAGEN
Political Staff

JOURNALIST Rafiq Rohan is one of two hunger-striking prisoners transferred from Robben Island to a hospital on the mainland, said lawyer Mr Wilhe Hofmeyr

Reading a statement from the Hunger Strike Committee at a vigil yesterday, he said Rohan and Peter Khube were taken to hospital on Sunday

Rohan, former news editor of Post Natal, had stomach ulcers, was passing blood and had suspected kidney failure when he was taken to hospital

His lawyer, Mr Ibbie Mohamed, said he had been trying for days to get permission from prison authorities to see Rohan

Until the statement was read he did not know his client had been hospitalised, he said

Rohan, 37, was jailed for 15 years last year for a series of bomb blasts in Natal, including one at SADF Natal Command in which 17 people were slightly injured.

Khube was jailed for 17 years in 1983

Gordon Webster, 27, who was imprisoned for 25 years two years ago after being convicted of murder with extenuating circumstances, attempted murder and terrorism, was taken to

hospital on Saturday

Atty Phiri, who was imprisoned for 28 years in 1988, is also in hospital

● The hunger strike by political prisoners on Robben Island could be resolved only by their release, said former hunger-striker Mr David Motshwane Moise

"On previous hunger strikes there was always the possibility of reaching a compromise. There is no chance of any compromise now. Our comrades will refuse food until their hearts stop beating," said Mr Moise, who was freed from the island with five other ANC members last week

Mr Moise, 35, spent three years on Death Row after being found guilty of high treason following attacks on the Booyens police station, a policeman's house, Sasol 2 and the West Rand Administration Board offices

He said in an interview that ANC cadres incarcerated on Robben Island had expected to be freed by April 30, in terms of the Pretoria Minute.

"We considered all the possibilities and options open to us before deciding to force the government's hand

"A hunger strike is a prisoner's last weapon. He's well aware of its effects on his health. Since you do not have any other weapon you use it as a last resort. We felt we would rather die than rot away in prison"

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14/5/91

Warning on prisoners refusing food

THEO RAWANA
BIDAN 15/5/77.
HEALTH organisations have warned that hunger-striking prisoners risk suffering permanent damage if their action, started on May 1, continues.

The National Medical and Dental Association (Namda) and the SA Health Workers' Congress (Sahwco) said yesterday they had been told that hunger strikers in some Transvaal prisons had been denied blankets and, in one instance, even water for periods of time.

In a joint statement the organisations said. "If these allegations are true, we would like to warn the authorities that if the hunger strikers are exposed to cold or denied adequate amounts of water (a minimum of two litres per person a day), they could suffer potentially fatal hypothermia or dehydration."

A Human Rights Commission (HRC) spokesman said yesterday there were 186 prisoners on hunger strike.

The Correctional Services Department said that in the case of a hunger strike, prisoners "are warned against the adverse effects" and treated strictly in accordance with internationally accepted guidelines.

Last political prisoners removed from island

ROBBEN Island's 30-year term as a jail for black political prisoners ended yesterday when the last remaining political prisoners — most of whom are on hunger strike — were transferred to Pollsmoor Prison in the Cape Town suburb of Tokai.

Lawyer Willie Hofmeyr, who represents the prisoners, said yesterday the Correctional Services Department had told him that all prisoners had been transferred to Pollsmoor.

Confirming this, the department said Pollsmoor's overpopulation could be addressed by transferring some ordinary prisoners to the island.

Hofmeyr also said 54 former political prisoners were arrested in Cape Town yesterday during a march to demonstrate solidarity with hunger strikers.

Four of those detained on Cape Town's Grand Parade were former Robben Island prisoners who had been released on Tuesday after a 14-day hunger strike. They were released later in the afternoon.

Hofmeyr said the prisoners' lawyers were concerned at the manner in which the move took place. The department had refused the prisoners access to legal assistance and had now removed them without the benefit of legal advice, he said.

He put the number of prisoners transferred at 27. Correctional Services said 21 had been transferred.

Hofmeyr said that of the 27 mostly ANC prisoners transferred, 22 were on hunger strike. "The prisoners have repeatedly requested to consult with us as their legal representative as they believe that the attempt to move them was not only illegitimate, but also unlawful," he added.

Human Rights Commission spokesman Max Coleman said there were still 1 800

political prisoners. He called on government to clear out its "bureaucratic mess" and release them.

The Hunger Strike Support Committee said about 250 prisoners had begun hunger strikes since May 1.

"Since Mr F W de Klerk's announcement on April 29 1991 that a total of 933 releases had been authorised since February 2 1990, no further figures have been issued," said Coleman.

"The fact that of the 933 released over the 15-month period, 623 (or 67%) were released in April alone indicates clearly how the authorities can cut through red tape when the pressure is upon them."

Ethics

He said reports had been received that eight, and possibly nine, hunger strikers had been admitted to hospital.

"There have been complaints that medical ethics and requirements are not being met and family members are not being informed about the health of their relatives," Coleman said.

Our political staff reports that University of the Western Cape lecturer Andre Odendaal said yesterday white business people and the Justice Minister should keep their hands off Robben Island until a representative and democratic decision about its future could be made.

"Recognising the need for any decision to be representative and accountable should be the starting point, not an afterthought," he said the Southern African Museums annual conference in Sea Point.

Bloum 16/5/91
THEO RAWANA

Birthday wish: (253) 'free ^{South} 16/5-22/5/91 my daddy'

By Enrico Kemp

ONE month ago, journalist and Umkhonto we Sizwe cadre Rafiq Rohan had a visit on Robben Island from his daughter on her birthday.

She told him solemnly that she would only have a birthday party when he was released from prison.

Now a weak and emaciated Rohan lies in Somerset Hospital with suspected kidney failure — the sixth prisoner to be transferred from the island with complications resulting from a sustained hunger strike in support of a demand for their unconditional release.

In a visit to the island recently, Rohan told me how bitterly disappointed he had been when told that his application for indemnity had been rejected by the Working Group established in terms of the Pretoria Minute last year.

The ANC had proclaimed April 30 to be the deadline for the release of all political prisoners.

Rohan and his fellow prisoners had believed that they would all be released before the April 30 deadline.

But he and five others were devastated when told that their applications had been turned down. Their cases are now being considered by a panel of three judges and advisors appointed by the government.

The former Post Natal news editor, now serving the second of a 15-year sentence for sabotage, was convicted of bombing the CR Swart police headquarters and Natal Command complex in Durban. He was transferred to Robben Island's maximum security prison at the beginning of last year.

Police hold 40 as Cape Town march halted

CAPE TOWN — Police arrested about 40 former political prisoners at the Grand Parade in Cape Town yesterday when they tried to march to Parliament.

Marchers intended demanding the immediate release of all prisoners still jailed for political crimes, said spokesman Don Davis.

Shortly before 1 pm a loudhailer from a police vehicle said the gathering was illegal and people were to disperse in one minute.

March organisers told police they had received municipal permission and had tried to ar-

range to meet the chief magistrate for his permission.

They then broke up into groups of fewer than five to comply with laws restricting such gatherings, but regrouped shortly afterwards.

The loudhailer then ordered about 20 policemen at the scene to arrest the protesters.

Bystanders were also ordered to leave the scene, but this was largely ignored as shoppers moved across the parade from the Wednesday fleamarket to watch the incident.

There were scuffles when policemen tried to confiscate posters.

Star 16/5/91
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They were put in two trucks and driven, singing and stamping their feet, to Caledon Square police station.

Posters called for the immediate release of political prisoners.

One read: "Robben Island soldiers march on their stomachs", an apparent reference to hunger striking politicals.

The protest was joined by former prisoners sentenced during at least four political trials in the western Cape in the 1980s.

According to Mr Davis, these were the "Forbes, Yengeni, Liso Bright and Mpetha" trials — Sapa.

Last politicals off Robben Island

Star 16/5/91

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CAPE TOWN — Action for the immediate release of jailed "politicals" intensified yesterday after the gates of Robben Island prison shut for the last time on the backs of political prisoners, when the last 28 were transferred to a mainland jail

However, the manner in which they were removed to Pollsmoor Maximum Prison in Tokai, near Cape Town, was condemned in the strongest possible terms by both the ANC and the lawyer representing Robben Island hunger strikers

The ANC expressed "complete outrage" at the transfer. It also noted with deep concern that two weeks after the April 30 deadline there were still a considerable number of political prisoners in jail

It pointed out that, in protest against their continued imprisonment, most of these prisoners had now been on hunger strike for 15 days

The ANC said that if the Government did not release them, and the hunger strike continued,

death could result

Six hunger strikers from Robben Island have already been admitted to Cape hospitals. Civil rights lawyer Wilhe Hofmeyr said two of the Cape hunger strikers were ignoring warnings of permanent kidney damage

Mr Hofmeyr said that despite the danger, Rafiq Rohan and Gordon Webster were determined not to eat until all political prisoners had been released

Resistance

The Department of Correctional Services had refused to grant the prisoners access to legal assistance

Mr Hofmeyr said the prisoners had earlier issued several statements indicating their resistance to any attempt to move them to Pollsmoor

"They (the prisoners) said it would cause a totally unnecessary disruption in their lives at a time when they were supposed to have been released"

"It appears that the authorities have exploited the weak-

ened state of our clients to move them against their will," Mr Hofmeyr added.

The Department of Correctional Services confirmed in a statement yesterday that the remaining "politicals" on Robben Island had been transferred to Pollsmoor Prison on Tuesday and yesterday

Eleven people convicted for political offences had been released from the island in the past week

Some of those released were freed on the advice of the judicial advisory committee, which considers applications by individual prisoners who deem themselves entitled to release as politicals, the statement said

Several of the transferred prisoners had applied for release. Their applications were being managed individually through the relevant mechanisms

Meanwhile, 184 common-law prisoners were still being held on the island

The maximum security block would be able to hold about 600 other "normal criminals", the statement said

Hands off the Island — lecturer

CR 16/5/91

Political Staff

WHITE business people and the Minister of Justice should keep their hands off Robben Island until a representative and democratic decision about its future could be made, a University of the Western Cape lecturer, Dr Andre Odendaal, said yesterday.

"Recognising the need for any decision to be representative and accountable should be the starting point, not an afterthought," he said at the Southern African Museums annual conference in Sea Point.

Dr Odendaal, co-ordinator of the project to start a museum on the apartheid era and the South African liberation struggle at UWC, delivered a paper on the challenges facing "official apartheid-controlled history".

"It is not for white business people or the Minister of Justice of the regime responsible for creating this monstrous prison, and the hell of the gravel-quarry in the 1960s, to decide on the future of Robben Island," he said.

"I'd like to say: 'Hands off Robben Island!'"

BY BARRY STREEK

ROBBEN ISLAND'S days as a jail for black political offenders for nearly 30 years ended yesterday when the remaining 21 security prisoners on the island were transferred to Pollsmoor Prison in Tokai, Cape Town.

A spokesman for the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, confirmed that the 21 prisoners were transferred to Pollsmoor on May 14 and 15.

Nine of the 21 prisoners are currently on hunger strike in protest against their continued detention, while a further six have been hospitalised because of the effects of the hunger strike. Another five had been referred to the mainland hospital but

Island's last political prisoners transferred

they had refused to leave as they had not yet collapsed.

The hunger strikers' lawyer, Mr Willie Hofmeyr, said in a statement, "We wish to place on record our serious concern about the manner in which the move took place.

"The prisoners have repeatedly requested to consult with us as their legal representatives as they believed that the attempt to move them was not only illegitimate, but also unlawful."

The ANC expressed complete outrage at this move of people whose physical weakness after 15 days of hunger strike is being exploited.

In a statement issued by its Western Cape publicity secretary, Mr Trevor Manuel, the ANC said that the prisoners were people who would undoubtedly qualify for release in terms of the agreed definition of political offences and their releases were at least 15 days overdue.

"The effect of this callous move is to totally disorientate the prisoners at a time when the expectation of the world is that they would be moved home."

The ANC campaign for their releases would intensify, Mr Manuel said.

All political prisoners leave Island

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S. D. v. J. 16/5/77

ROBBEN Island had no political prisoners yesterday after the remaining 21 prisoners were transferred to Pollsmoor Prison, according to the Department of Justice and Correctional Services.

The department yesterday said in a statement that 11 people convicted for political offences had been released from the island during the past few days.

Some of these releases were on the advice of the judicial advisory committee, which considered applications by individual prisoners who deemed themselves entitled to release as political prisoners, the statement said.

About 184 medium-term prisoners are still being held in the island jail.

The department said the maximum security block would be able to hold about 600 normal criminals.

"The final management policies regarding the island were discussed fully by the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services in Parliament on May 10," the statement concluded.

Meanwhile, police arrested about 40 former political prisoners on Cape Town's Grand Parade when they tried to march to Parliament yesterday.

The marchers intended to demand the immediate release of all political prisoners, spokesman Mr Don Davis said. - Sapa.

UNIVERSITY
SALERS

Township mission to meet Marais

A SEVEN-member delegation from the Soshanguve township near Pretoria will meet Deputy Education and Development Aid Minister Piet Marais tomorrow to discuss grievances which have led to a rent and services boycott in the township

Soshanguve Residents' Association (Sorea) spokesman and leader of the delegation Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa said yesterday the meeting was at his association's insistence

"This is not our first meeting with the authorities. We have held meetings with the Soshanguve town manager and senior government officials, including Education and Training Minister Stoffel van der Merwe. *B10am 17/5/71*

"A monthly flat rate of R50, for which Sorea has been negotiating unceasingly, the conversion of the Soshanguve hostel into family units and other grievances which have led to the boycott will be discussed at our meeting with the deputy

WILSON ZWANE

minister," Mkhathshwa said. *(253)*
The Minister's office confirmed the meeting would take place, but would not elaborate

Soshanguve residents' complaints included high rentals, incompetent township administration, unreliable water and electricity supplies and lack of proper recreational facilities, Mkhathshwa said

"For these grievances the residents of Soshanguve embarked on a rent and services boycott on April 7. And the boycott will go on until all our demands have been met," he said

In an open letter to the residents, the town manager appealed to residents to "stay clear of boycott actions" and take the route of consultation.

"Let us approach the rent issue in a more positive manner. Solutions are guaranteed to be found," it said

Freedom or death, say hunger strikers

CAPE TOWN — Prisoners on hunger strike said from hospital yesterday they were prepared only for release or death.

In a statement released by lawyer Wilhe Hofmeyr at a march to demand the release of hunger striking prisoners held in Cape Town, they said "We are prepared to go the full distance to ensure our release. It is release or death"

Eighteen of the 28 politi-

B10am 17/5/71
dal prisoners recently moved from Robben Island to Pollsmoor Prison are on a hunger strike, Hofmeyr said

Of these, six had been hospitalised since their strike began on May 1.

The Department of Correctional Services responded, saying: "Prisoners whose condition justifies hospitalisation receive the best possible professional

attention *(253)*
"The allegation that all visit applications have been turned down is malicious and devoid of all truth"

KIN BENTLEY reports from London that in a wide-ranging resolution on SA, the European Parliament in Strasbourg yesterday called for the immediate release of political prisoners on hunger strike and the maintenance of pressures such as sanctions

End of an era on the Island

12/15/91 1315-23191

ROBBER ISLAND entered a new era this week when the 28 remaining political prisoners — 17 of whom are on hunger strike — were moved to Pollsmoor Maximum Prison in Tokai.

By PORTIA MAURICE and JUSTIN PEARCE

The move was a controversial one, as prisoners had earlier issued statements saying transfer to any mainland prison would cause unnecessary disruption in their lives at a time when they were supposed to have been released. Willie Hofmeyr, the lawyer representing the Island hunger strikers, told *The Weekly Mail* he had been denied access to his clients while they were removed. In the rest of the country, the approximately 178 hunger strikers demanding their release in terms of the Pretoria Minute have been joined by 10 awaiting trial prisoners in Pietermaritzburg and two at Protea police station in Soweto.

The remaining political prisoners were removed from Robben Island this week but hunger strikes continue at many prisons around the country.

many have been hospitalised. Prisoners complain, via their lawyers, that they have been transferred to colder cells, have had to endure racist comments from warders and have been denied exercise rights and extramural activities. At Groenpunt Prison and Pretoria Local the hunger strike has been suspended, according to the Human Rights Commission (HRC), because of alleged pressure from prison authorities.

At Leeukop Prison, north of Johannesburg, hunger strikers allege they have been denied access to medical doctors in violation of the Tokyo Declaration. In a press statement this week Professor John Kalk of the Wits Medical School warned that if they were exposed to cold or denied adequate amounts of water (a minimum of two litres a day), they could suffer potentially fatal hypothermia, dehydration or kidney damage.

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Six Robben Island hunger strikers have been sent to Somerset Hospital, and one is at Valkenberg Mental Hospital, for other reasons. Two elderly prisoners have been exempted, and nine Pan Africanist Congress members are not participating, according to Hofmeyr.

Four prisoners released on Tuesday told a reception at Cowley House in Woodstock that conditions on the Island had deteriorated since their strike began on May 1. The four are: Sazi Ndlovu and Andrew Matabati, both sentenced in January 1989 to 12-year sentences for terrorism; Antonio du Preez, sentenced in May 1986 to 15 and a half years, also on charges of terrorism; and Thabo Memele, for whom details were not available. Nafsa Manana and Johannes Mandla Shabangu were released two days earlier.

Since Sunday, they said, the prisoners had had no hot water. Previously granted privileges had been revoked, including access to publications and the right to make telephone calls and receive extra visits.

Medical treatment was being administered on an arbitrary basis, claimed Ndlovu. The day before his release prison authorities had wanted to take him to hospital even though he had no medical complaints. Conversely, fellow-hunger striker Africa Hlaphe was experiencing kidney trouble but had not been granted access to hospital, Ndlovu said.

Memele, who had been in Somerset Hospital before his release, described his condition as "weak".

He brought a message from hospitalised prisoners, whom he said had been kept shackled to their beds. "Until they are released they will not eat," he said. "We ask the ANC to call on Kobie Coe to resign. The boers were treating us badly. They demanded that the doctors lock the wards. When the doctors refused, the boers forced them."

According to Lawyers for Human Rights spokesman Lolo Ditshego, the government has made a unilateral decision not to consider applications for release from the four political prisoners still on death row in Pretoria, another alleged contravention of the Pretoria Minute.



Maggie go home . . . protesters took to the streets outside Parliament yesterday to show their disapproval of Margaret Thatcher's visit and their support for the remaining political prisoners.

Chaos as police arrest protesters

CAPE TOWN — Pandemonium reigned outside Caledon Square police station when police tear-gassed, charged and arrested 50 people who had gathered to demand the release of two people who had been arrested while taking part in an earlier ANC march on Parliament.

The crowd, chanting ANC slogans and singing, gathered as ANC western Cape executive member Hilda Ndude and general secretary Amos Lungisi tried to negotiate the release of the two.

Demonstrators cut down two official flags outside the police station and replaced them with an ANC flag.

There was also chaos in Buitenkant Street after the police surrounded a crowd of more than 800 and stormed without warning. People ran away. Several skirmishes took place, with the police using their fists and batons. Some demonstrators fought back.

Teargas was released and a policewoman was seen tripping up people fleeing the fumes.

Several demonstrators were bundled into a police vehicle

The last one had to be beaten into the vehicle with a baton

Earlier, about 1 000 ANC and SA Communist Party supporters marched on Parliament to demand the release of hunger striking political prisoners.

The march through the city centre to the gates of Parliament soon became a free-for-all-causes march.

Anti-Thatcher

Placards included a call for the release of political prisoners, anti-Thatcher slogans and condemnation of the "SA Police/Inkatha alliance"

Placards read "Maggie Thatcher — Apartheid's Iron Lady" and "Maggie Thatcher go home — thanks for nothing"

Two huge placards picturing President de Klerk and Inkatha Freedom Party leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi pronounced that an "SAP/Inkatha alliance" was "killing our people". Another placard read "Traditional allies, traditional weapons, traditional murder"

Bulelani Nguka of the ANC executive and ANC law com-

mission, who led the march and addressed the seated crowd at Parliament, said they had delivered many memoranda to Mr de Klerk, demanding the release of the remaining political prisoners and hunger strikers.

"We have urged, persuaded and pleaded for the release of our people, but it has fallen on deaf ears. There will be no more memoranda."

Mr Nguka said he would present Mr de Klerk with one of the large-print placards demanding the release of hunger strikers, as the print on earlier memoranda had obviously been too fine to read.

Officials at Parliament refused to take the placard, saying no arrangement had been made for the handing-over of anything. An SAP officer eventually agreed to take the placard and give it to Mr de Klerk.

During the march, lawyer Willie Hofmeyr handed out a statement from the political prisoners striking at Somerset Hospital appealing for the people to keep up the pressure for their release — Own Correspondent and Sapa

ANC man campaigns for strikers

Own Correspondent

LONDON. — A former ANC saboteur, released from prison earlier this month, is currently on a tour of Europe and Britain to lobby support for about 200 political prisoners on hunger strike in South Africa.

Mr David Moise, 36, was sentenced to death on charges of high treason in 1981, after being involved in an attack on a Sasol installation. He was later reprieved and sent to Robben Island.

Among political prisoners who started a hunger strike "to the death" on May 1, Mr Moise was recently released, the Anti-Apartheid Movement said yesterday.

An AAM spokesman said Mr Moise met "the major political groupings" of the European Parliament this week.

Striker suffers kidney damage

Political Staff

DOCTORS have told hunger-striking political prisoner Rafiq Rohan that he had suffered permanent kidney damage and that the condition of his kidneys will continue to deteriorate, his lawyer, Mr Willie Hofmeyr, said yesterday.

Rohan, a former news editor of Post Natal, was also suffering a urinary infection, peptic ulcers from depression and anxiety, loss of concentration, blood in the urine, drowsiness and insomnia.

Mr Hofmeyr said the hunger strike, now in its 17th day, was beginning to cause permanent organ damage to the people hospitalised in Somerset Hospital.

A spokesman for the Minister of Correctional Services, Mr Kobie Coetsee, said yesterday the number of prisoners "allegedly on hunger strike is grossly exaggerated".

Prisoners on hunger strike had unlimited access to water and ablution facilities.

The six hunger strikers in Somerset Hospital said in a statement that their condition was now critical.

"Our physical and mental condition is being exacerbated by the cruel and inhuman refusal by the prison authorities to allow us to have access to our loved ones."

The department said the allegation that all visit applications had been turned down was "malicious and devoid of all truth".

With Robben Island's grim role as a prison soon to draw to an end, we asked Weekend Argus readers last week to suggest how it could be best used in the new South Africa. We didn't anticipate the 900-plus response to our Write-In. Although the closing date was on Wednesday, the forms are still pouring in. We will run a final count next week, but meanwhile Weekend Argus Reporter **JANIS FRASER** gives an overview of the replies we received.

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A Statue of Liberty on Robben Island?

IF Weekend Argus readers have their way, Robben Island's already-established international reputation will soon be heading for an astonishing update.

Of the almost 900 people who responded to our Write-In on the future of the island, the overwhelming majority were firmly in favour of restoring the existing Victorian harbour village into a tasteful resort, upgrading the nature reserve and making the island accessible to all.

But if the development goes the way some readers suggest, that historic first view of Cape Town from the sea will never be the same.

No one went as far as plumping for Disneyland. But along with many calls of "Bring in Sol Kerzner — and quickly" and an even larger number begging "Keep Sol Kerzner out" there was Edgemoor resident Mr D Lupton's dream of a Statue of Liberty to add a whole new look to Table Bay.

He said it should be built "for all to see as reminder that all men are equal before God".

Mr Daniel Burgess of Mitchell's Plain thought a cross as big as the Statue of Liberty would suffice. "For people to see the country and the people we are".

And to get there? Forget about ferries, hovercraft and Rhine river boats mooted by some readers. N Duncan of Sea Point is all for "a 10 kilometre bridge, like the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco".

Mostly though, readers wanted tasteful development — restored or modern — with access to the wild life and the marine reserve at a price the average person could afford.

Many people voted for two or three, or even four of the following options which were given on last week's form.

■ Nature reserve and restored Victorian resort — which drew 605 votes in favour.

■ The prison converted to a hotel — which drew only 22 votes, although 280 people linked the conversion as part of the Victorian resort.

■ A casino — which had 130 votes, and another 102 as part of an overall holiday development or as part of the Victorian resort.

■ The modern holiday development raised 40 votes

alone but another 150 when the other options were added.

■ Retaining the island, undeveloped, as a monument, drew a surprisingly low 48 votes, but 148 added that a simple nature reserve should be maintained.

The final category of "any other suggestion" drew 52 straight responses, some unusual, some practical and some unprintable. In this instance, more than 500 people linked one or more of the other categories with their extra suggestion.

From the huge response to the write-in, it is obvious that the future of Robben Island is of tremendous concern to many Weekend Argus readers.

A single note of dissent came from Professor David Dickman of Sea Point, who said "Stop the write-in. It is callous, insensitive, inhumane".

Many of the entries were almost identical but here's a selection of the more unusual.

An international peace centre would add lustre to the island's tarnished image, believed A Hurter of Claremont.

A training centre and outdoor activities for youth organisations came up regularly.

Mr A H Ahmed of Cape Town went one better by suggesting a university and

hospital. "Very important as Robben Island has become known worldwide".

Sport came into the picture with the scheme to build international-standard tennis courts and another reader thought the island could become a shoppers' mecca if it had duty-free status.

M Blatchford of Observatory said bitterly "Send all bergies, river rats, squatters, street children and won't-works to the island to eke out their own living", while J R Dickson suggested "A Save SA enclave, residence of all serving SA politicians, with all their traditional bomas, braais, bombs, assegais and bull".

Mrs G A Fouche of Plumstead proposed the island as a haven and hospice for Aids sufferers and a nature reserve at the same time.

Ms Samaoen Osman of Belthorn thought it was the ideal place for a maximum security prison for political prisoners, and a reader calling herself Mrs Hope of The Old, Old South Africa said "Give Robben Island to Mandela and all his ANC members so they can leave everyone alone to live in peace".

Yet another reader put up the rather novel proposal of sending all the Pollsmoor prisoners to the island and returning Pollsmoor to Tokai.



On a practical note, there was strong feeling about keeping motor vehicles and aircraft off the island. The suggestion of cycle lanes and cycles to hire came up several times, with a helipad only for emergencies.

A large yacht harbour, not just facilities for one club, was another recurring demand.

Though no one brought up the touchy subject of turning Mr Nelson Mandela's cell into a prime hotel suite, there were plenty in favour of turning the jail into a hotel with an a la carte restaurant.

J Saunders of Kalk Bay said: "For those who want to spend the night, use the prison as it is, with basic meals, no luxury, so all can feel what it's been like all these

years, please, no rich man's paradise".

Echoing that often-voiced sentiment was G Durrell of Rondebosch East who said: "Keep the greedy paws off the place."

No high-rise, no time-share, no new houses no idle rich, keep it for the man-in-the-street was a repeatedly-expressed view.

"Development is a euphemism for despoilation," said W A Godfrey of Fish Hoek.

Many believed it would be practical to use proceeds from the casino, hotel and resort to help finance education and health care.

Mrs N E Sherwood of Bantary Bay saw Mr Sol Kerzner as the man to turn the island into a "paradise". She went on "We fly to Sun City, The Wild Coast, Swaziland, Fish

The new Robben Island

Voting categories

Nature reserve and restored Victorian resort

65.2%

A casino

14%

Prison converted to a hotel

5.6%

Any other suggestion

5.6%

Retain undeveloped as a monument

5.1%

Modern holiday development

4.3%

River, Ciskei — let's spend our money in the Cape instead"

And M Wunder of Green Point wanted a hotel and casino with Cape food and wine as an attraction "Special food and special wine at good prices — cheap"

S R Cottle of Three Anchor Bay was in favour of retaining the island undeveloped and as a monument which would "incorporate a museum of the Liberation Struggle".

Ms Taryn Lewis of Pine-lands preferred a miniature Sun City with pleasure cruises to the casino and C W Collins thought a holiday cruise connection should link Melkbosstrand, Blouberg, Cape Town and Robben Island.

Ms Debbe Hossy of Clovelly went the whole hog with a call for "a Garden of Eden with a casino, an old fashioned, high-rise, trippy place Tear down that prison," she said

Let the money generated by the resort, casino and hotel provide the funds to preserve the nature reserve, was the practical suggestion from A Vorster of Blouberg.

Mr David Miller of Cape Town was one of the hundreds who wanted the island's development to be a combination of suggestions one, two and three "As it's summer here and winter in Europe, let's attract the rich from the Mediterranean and bring money and development to Cape Town"

But the majority of Weekend Argus readers came out again and again for a place where limited numbers could be close to nature in simple surroundings

Several were even against overnight visitors "Big fines for littering," added Mrs Rhona Redman of Claremont

The developer must be prepared to spread the load between making a fast buck and developing natural beauty was another caution

Dr and Mrs J A Allan of Voelklip said "The Department of Nature Conservation should take over and build suitable accommodation for overnight stays"

Mr Rodney Cohen of Observatory wanted the island kept purely for natural science research and off-limits to the public

Those with happy personal memories of Robben Island were particularly concerned about its future

Mrs R A Olivier of Montague wanted a nature reserve and restored resort. "Having been married in the small church and lived there in naval days there can be no other choice"

Mrs C H Stoney of Claremont said she spent many happy holidays there when the island was controlled by the navy and would love to go back to a modern holiday development

Mrs J O'Connor of the SASSAR Retirement Centre at Panorama had similar good memories of when her father was a male nurse there. There were "boat trips and so many good things for the younger children and I think the new South Africa would enjoy it too"

Mr J L Pereira said his father was born on the island in 1889 and his grandfather brought meat supplies out to the leper colony when he was captain of the tug Tiger.

He hoped the island would remain undeveloped

Mr Wellington Mnyamana of Koeberg Road, meanwhile, suggested "Build a new port and get out of Walvis Bay"

There was a tellingly illustrated message from Ms M Williamson of Fish Hoek, who sent her entry, saying "keep the island as it is" on a post card showing Koeberg Power Station

And Ms Carrol Rodwell of Cape Town, like hundreds of others, supported the the Victorian resort idea as an extension of the Victoria and Alfred waterfront development Plus bird sanctuary and nature reserve she said, but she thought she deserved a small prize — "like a trip to the island" — for her time and money in submitting the entry

"Does The Argus expect something for nothing?" she asked

Finally, there was the Kennedy family of Vlottenburg who obviously took the issue of The Weekend Argus write-in seriously to heart

Father, Mr A Kennedy, wanted a nature reserve, modern hotel and casino, but his wife, Mrs M Kennedy, thought the casino would be enough.

Their 21-year-old daughter Miss E Kennedy said a reserve and restored resort would be fine, plus a casino

Seventeen-year-old son A Kennedy was happy with a hotel and casino, 14-year-old son J Kennedy agreed with mum and plumped for just the casino

But the youngest in the family, G Kennedy, who is in sub A, had a simpler solution

"Burn it to death," he said.

Hunger strikers 'locked in fridge'

By ELIAS MALULEKE

ANC political prisoners on hunger strike at Eastern Transvaal's Barberton Prison were allegedly locked in a mortuary refrigerator by prison warders this month

The prisoners were allegedly warned they would be "frozen to death" if they did not end the hunger strike

According to Human Rights Commission lawyers, "15 of the 22 hunger strikers locked in the fridge abandoned the fast afterwards"

The Department of Correctional Services has refuted the allegations, describing them as "devoid of all truth"

The HRC said, "Seven hunger strikers resisted the death threat and were taken out of the fridge after between 10 and 15 minutes"

They were listed as Alpheus Mdluli, Elphus Mabilu, Jacob Mathemane, Albert Ngomane, Rodney Magoloane, Petrus Shabangu and Moses Nkosi

The prisoners went on hunger strike on May

2 to demand their "immediate release from prison in accordance with the agreement between the government and the ANC on indemnity for prisoners and exiles"

The HRC described the treatment of the hunger strikers at the prison as "cruel and inhuman"

The HRC said it visited the prison on May 14 and found the condition of the strikers "worsening"

"They complained that when they were admitted to hospital they were kept in handcuffs and leg chains, making it difficult to turn in their beds."

The HRC said a prison doctor "has refused to provide medical care" unless the strike is ended.

The doctor visits the strikers on Mondays and Fridays but does not attend to them, it claims

The HRC also alleges that former hunger strikers have been "refused meals"

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs

Certain police stations: offences

6 Mr L T LANDERS asked the Minister of Law and Order

| | (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) | (g) | (h) | (i) | (j) |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|
| (i) Pinetown | 15 | 30 | 45 | 252 | 25 | 263 | 672 | 556 | 1 539 | 0 |
| (ii) Clairwood (Montclair police station) | 115 | 45 | 118 | 248 | 41 | 446 | 368 | 222 | 526 | 4 |
| (iii) Mayville | 9 | 13 | 33 | 145 | 17 | 93 | 352 | 94 | 489 | 0 |
| (iv) Greenwood Park | 55 | 51 | 94 | 507 | 50 | 395 | 520 | 560 | 1 084 | 6 |

Note

As the South African Police is not satisfied with the crime situation in the Republic of South Africa, drastic measures are being taken to combat the occurrence of crime in the country. In this regard I wish to draw the hon member's attention to Operation Sentry, including Operation Thunderbolt and other similar operations during the past twelve months. These operations have proved to be very successful. The situation, however, is continuously being monitored and I wish to assure hon members that everything possible is being done to prevent crime.

I also wish to draw the attention of the hon member to the fact that since 1 January 1990 the Port Natal Division no longer exists, but is part of the greater Natal Police Region.

Judges/magistrates: visits to police cells

8 Mr P R E D A GAMA asked the Minister of Law and Order

On how many occasions in 1990 did (a) judges and (b) magistrates inspect or pay visits to police cells in connection with persons awaiting trial?

C44E

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

- (1) (a) 633
- (b) 372
- (2) Yes, 4
- (3) Yes

(a) R888 212,88

(b) 1 January 1990 until 30 December 1990

Note

I also wish to draw the attention of the hon member to my reply to oral question no 9 in the House of Assembly on 7 May 1991.

People's courts: incidents

13 Mr L T LANDERS asked the Minister of Law and Order

How many incidents involving people's courts were (a) reported to and (b) investigated by the South African Police in 1989 and 1990, respectively?

| THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| 1989 | 1990 |
| (a) 12 | 127 |
| (b) 12 | 127 |

Policing activities: drug abuse

16 Mr T R GEORGE asked the Minister of Law and Order

- (3) No

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

- (1) How many members of the South African Police were involved in policing activities relating to drug abuse in the (a) Greater Johannesburg area and (b) Republic as at the latest specified date for which figures are available,
- (2) (a) how many policemen of each race group were convicted of offences relating to (i)(aa) dealing in, (bb) using and (cc) theft of drugs and (ii) aiding and abetting drug dealers in each specified police station area in the Greater Johannesburg area during the latest specified 12-month period for which figures are available and (b) what disciplinary steps were taken against these policemen,
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

C79E

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

- (1) (a) 101
- (b) 716 (including the 101 members referred to in paragraph (a))
- (2) (a) (i) 1 Black member
- (bb) No members
- (cc) No members
- (ii) No members
- (b) After his conviction in a magistrate's court the member was discharged from the South African Police

C69E

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

1989 1990

- (a) 12 127
- (b) 12 127

Policing activities: drug abuse

16 Mr T R GEORGE asked the Minister of Law and Order

- (3) No

Hunger strike campaign broadens

By Jo-Anné Collinge ^{Star} 20/5/91

The number of political prisoners admitted to hospital as a result of their continuing hunger strike is growing steadily as political organisations in South Africa and abroad plan solidarity action for Wednesday, the 22nd day of the prisoners' fast.

The ANC has called for a national day of fasting on Wednesday in solidarity with political prisoners.

According to Human Rights Commission spokesman Max Coleman, there are still some 1 800 political prisoners despite the large number of releases last month. The Government acknowledges only a fraction of the HRC estimate.

In the Netherlands, a 24-hour solidarity fast will be observed

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on Wednesday, by a range of high-profile figures including Amsterdam mayor Ed van Thijn and European heavy-weight boxing champion Arnold van der Lijden.

Late last week the Hunger Strike Support Committee in Johannesburg estimated that 190 political prisoners were on hunger strike around the country. At that stage, nine had been admitted to hospital in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

At the weekend, Umkhonto we Sizwe member Neo Potsane was transferred from Diepkloof prison to Johannesburg Hospital after 17 days without food.

Sources said he was very weak and that his fellow prisoners from the "Deimas 11" trial were losing strength rapidly.

In Cape Town there is grave

concern about the health of journalist and Umkhonto cadre Rafiq Rohan, admitted to Somerset Hospital a few days ago.

Support committee spokesman Wilhe Hofmeyr said a scan has shown permanent damage to Rohan's kidneys.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu plans to speak to President de Klerk today about the plight of the six political prisoners who have entered the 19th day of their fast in Somerset Hospital.

The archbishop, who visited them yesterday, said "Their deaths will jeopardise very seriously the chances of a negotiated settlement."

Mr Hofmeyr said demonstrations for the release of remaining political prisoners would be stepped up this week.

Tutu moves for release of prisoners

By BRONWYN DAVIDS

IN a bid to save their lives, Archbishop Desmond Tutu will today phone President F W De Klerk to press for the release of political prisoners who have been on a hunger strike for 19 days

Archbishop Tutu yesterday visited six political prisoners in Somerset Hospital and hunger strikers at Pollsmoor Prison

He said he would phone Mr De Klerk, because it was not desirable that the chances of a negotiated settlement be jeopardised by having "what happened in Northern Ireland" repeated here.

The hunger strikers at Pollsmoor were weak but "their spirits were as good as can be expected" the archbishop said

'Commitment stronger'

Mrs Charmaine Bengston, sister of hunger striking journalist Mr Rafiq Rohan who is in Somerset Hospital suffering from kidney failure, said she was shocked at how weak her brother was. She said he is unable to "balance and he can't focus"

"But his commitment is stronger than ever and he will not give up until he is released," said Mrs Bengston

Mr Rohan's family will make a formal plea for his release this week, as doctors have warned that he may have to be placed on a kidney dialysis machine

● Meanwhile an ANC spokesman announced plans for demonstrations and other action throughout this week, demanding the release of political prisoners

The campaign will culminate in a candle-light march through Sea Point on Friday

253 et 20/5/91

Release

them!

'Mass action' to focus on hunger strike

253 Somerset 2/15/91

India votes



EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS: Former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi casting his vote yesterday on the first day of elections as 560 million Indians went to the polls to choose a new government for the world's biggest democracy.

THE ANC, Azapo and PAC are planning to embark on "mass action" campaigns this week to highlight the plight of more than 190 political prisoners on hunger strike.

By KAMAL SINGH and Sapa

conditional release of the political prisoners
The ANC held a demonstration at Pollsmoor Prison last night and is due to demonstrate at Somerset Hospital tonight, according to Mr Willie Hofmeyr, of the Hunger Strike Committee

Muslim organisations were also planning demonstrations to express solidarity with Mr Rafiq Rohan, former news editor of *Post Natal*, who is also at Somerset Hospital
Doctors said Rohan had suffered permanent kidney damage as a result of the hunger strike.
He is also reportedly suffering

To Page 2

And President FW de Klerk has agreed to meet Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu on Thursday to discuss the continued incarceration of the hunger-striking political prisoners, a spokesman for Tutu said yesterday.

This came after Tutu visited six hunger-striking political prisoners in Cape Town's Somerset Hospital on Sunday

Doctors yesterday warned that six hunger strikers were on the brink of moving into the "very high-risk phase" of their fast.

"It is a very difficult situation. They are at the point where tissue damage is irreversible and they cannot be resuscitated," Professor Roy Keeton, head of the department of medicine at Somerset Hospital, said yesterday

The prisoners are on their 21st day without food
The ANC, PAC and Azapo are demanding the un-

Hunger strikers 'critical'

From Page 1

from ulcer complications, loss of concentration, drowsiness, inability to sleep and is passing blood in his urine

His sister, Mrs Charmaine Bengsten, who visited him on Sunday, said Rohan was determined to continue the hunger strike

The Hunger Strike Committee, in conjunction with South African Students Congress and the National Union of South African Students, have planned a mass rally at the University of Cape Town tomorrow

Mr Chris Han, Umkhonto we Sizwe chief of staff, will be a guest speaker.

Parliament will be the scene of lunch-time demonstrations on Thursday, according to Hofmeyr.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions resolved at the weekend to organise an hour-long work stoppage on Thursday

Meanwhile, about 40 public figures in Holland, including a judge and the mayor of Amsterdam, will embark on a 24-hour hunger strike tomorrow in support of South Africa's political prisoners.

Hunger strikers 'in danger'

CAPE TOWN — A senior doctor warned yesterday that six hunger-striking political prisoners were in potential danger and had all suffered slight organ disorders.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu is to meet President F.W. de Klerk this week to discuss the hunger strikers' plight.

And in another development, a western Cape Cosatu representative has threatened an "economically destructive" programme of action if political prisoners are not released by Thursday.

Somerset Hospital medicine department head Prof Roy Keeton told a news conference yesterday that it was generally agreed acute metabolic disorders could occur in hunger strikers after 14 to 21 days.

The prisoners — who have been on a hunger strike for 21 days — had agreed among themselves to take a glucose supplement and were therefore not on a complete starvation diet, Keeton said.

He said the prisoners had refused the option of vitamins as a diet supplement but had agreed that they could be resuscitated

in the event of an acute collapse.

Keeton denied reports that one of the prisoners, journalist Rafiq Rohan, had suffered permanent kidney damage. He confirmed that ANC member Gordon Webster had been resuscitated after collapsing at the weekend.

UCT medical school medicine department head Prof Solly Benatar said: "We cannot be complacent. The situation is serious for the hunger strikers."

A Somerset Hospital consultant physician, Dr Francois Majoos, said some of the hunger-striking prisoners had been chained to their hospital beds on arrival. The shackles had been removed after medical staff complained to the authorities, he said.

WILSON ZWANE reports that Tutu's media officer John Allen said the archbishop had sought a meeting with De Klerk

□ To Page 2

Hunger strikers

after his visit to the prisoners in Somerset Hospital on Sunday

"The archbishop feels deaths in prison will jeopardise very seriously the chances of a negotiated settlement," Allen said

Sapa reports that Cosatu western Cape treasurer Nosey Pieterse said yesterday a general strike in the region could be called within a week if political prisoners were

not released by Thursday

He said a consumer boycott had also been mooted as a tactic

Meanwhile, the Dutch have responded to an ANC call for a worldwide "day of fasting" tomorrow in solidarity with SA's political prisoners. About 40 public figures, including a judge and Amsterdam's mayor, will embark on a 24-hour hunger strike

□ From Page 1

Boesak leads vigil outside Pollsmoor

By DENNIS CRUYWAGEN
Political Staff

DR Allan Boesak, director of the Foundation for Peace and Justice, last night addressed a candlelight vigil held by about 35 ANC supporters outside Pollsmoor Prison in support of the hunger-striking prisoners.

He said: "It is up to the government to avert the crisis. I cannot even contemplate what will happen should one of the hunger strikers die."

At the end of his speech police told the small crowd that it was illegal to hold a gathering within 100 metres of a prison and that they would be arrested if they did not disperse within five minutes.

The group then left. Professor Ralph Kirsch of the department of medicine at the University of Cape Town and Groote Schuur Hospital, said the strikers at Somerset Hospital had reached a point

where their lives were in danger.

Resuscitating them could be difficult, he said at a Press conference yesterday.

Stepping in when something acute went wrong with them was no guarantee of saving them, he said.

"Personally I feel we have been very insensitive in this country to the loss of life. I think we as a country need to examine the sacrifices these individuals are prepared to make."

Meanwhile, former journalist Rafiq Rohan, one of 14 political prisoners fasting for freedom, has been freed.

Five hunger strikers are still being treated at Somerset Hospital and eight are believed to be in the sick bay at Pollsmoor Prison.

They have been refusing food for 21 days. Archbishop Desmond Tutu is



Dr Allan Boesak

to meet President De Klerk on Thursday to discuss the strikers.

Archbishop Tutu telephoned President De Klerk yesterday following his visit to Pollsmoor and Somerset Hospital on Sunday to see the strikers.

Thursday's meeting, confirmed by his personal assistant, Mr John Allen, follows a senior doctor telling the authorities he would not accept

responsibility if anything happened to the strikers.

One, Gordon Webster, collapsed on Sunday.

Professor Roy Keeton, head of the medical department at Somerset, said he was present when Webster collapsed.

"He was resuscitated within a few minutes."

Dr Keeton said the strikers had given doctors permission to revive them in an acute event, but their wish was that they would go back to taking glucose and water afterwards.

"I have stated very clearly to the authorities that I'm not responsible for anything after 2 1/2 weeks."

He rejected statements — made by lawyer Mr Willie Hofmeyr — that former journalist Rafiq Rohan's kidneys had given in.

It was also not correct to say that Rohan had suffered permanent kidney damage, he said.

Hunger strike:

Star 21/5/91 concern grows

By Zingisa Mkhuma

Political prisoners on their 21st day of a hunger strike, could develop permanent neurological damages that may result in death, the National Medical and Dental Association (Namda) warned yesterday.

About 200 political prisoners embarked on a hunger strike earlier this month in protest against the Government's failure to release them in accordance with the Pretoria Minute.

A statement released yesterday by Willie Hofmeyr, a lawyer representing the Robben Island prisoners, said the strikers' health was continuing to deteriorate.

Mr Hofmeyr said Gordon Webster had collapsed and lost consciousness, while Rafiq Rohan had been informed that he had suffered permanent damage to his kidneys.

Umkhonto we Sizwe member Neo Potsane was reported to have been admitted to the Johannesburg Hospital, and his fellow prisoners from the "Delmas trial" were losing their strength rapidly.

Namda's Andrew Ratsela said the strikers' health was threatened as their bodies would begin

using the proteins stored in their muscles, resulting in weight loss and weakness.

Professor Roy Keeton, of the Sommerset hospital in Cape Town, said the strikers' lives were threatened because they had been without food for three weeks.

However, some people, like the Irish hunger strikers, went without food for 40 days and survived, he said.

Professor John Kalk of the Wits Medical School, widely regarded as an expert on hunger strikes, said if the strikers drank sufficient water, they were unlikely to get into serious medical problems.

He admitted though, that most people on their fourth week without food developed some medical problems, depending on the degree of weight loss.

Professor Kalk said the hunger strikers he had examined at the Johannesburg Hospital appeared to have difficulty drinking because they did not seem to get thirsty.

He assured relatives of hunger strikers who were currently experiencing kidney problems that most of the problems could be reversed.

CPA takes action on Island reserve

Staff Reporter

STEPS have been taken by the Cape Provincial Administration (CPA) to establish a nature reserve and a museum on Robben Island.

Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring said yesterday his executive had granted permission for the Directorate of Nature and Environment Conservation to enter into an agreement with the Department of Correctional Services to implement these decisions.

Such an agreement would be referred back to the CPA for approval. Mr Meiring said the establishment

of the reserve would ensure a safe breeding place for several species of birds and would promote the conservation of the Cape penguin in particular.

A museum should depict all the periods of the Island's history, he said. For this reason anyone who directly or indirectly shaped Robben Island's history should be involved in plans for its future.

The proposed agreement would then be submitted to the member of the CPA's Executive Committee charged with Nature and Environment Conservation for final approval.

Hunger strikers

now 'critical'

Staff Reporters

ARCHBISHOP Desmond Tutu is to meet President F W de Klerk this week to discuss the hunger strike by political prisoners, while doctors warned yesterday that six hospitalised strikers were now entering a "critical" phase

Professor Roy Keeton of Somerset Hospital told a news briefing the six were at the point "where tissue damage is irreversible" There was a danger that resuscitation may become impossible, he said

Professor Keeton said the six had agreed to a diet of water and glucose

With the strike entering its 21st day acute metabolic derangement could set in, with "risks being very high" after three weeks, he said

"I have warned the authorities that I'm not responsible from 2 1/2 weeks and onwards," he added

A spokesman for Archbishop Tutu, Mr John Allen, said the meeting with Mr De Klerk is scheduled for Thursday It had been arranged after the archbishop had visited the six on Sunday

"The archbishop feels deaths in prison will jeopardise very seriously the chances of a negotiated settlement," Mr Allen said

The official government position is that the applications for release by the hunger-strikers has been referred to the panel of judges, who will make a recommendation to Mr De Klerk

Spokesman for the Department of Correctional Services Major David Smit said it is "regretted" that prisoners resort to such action, but they are being

"continuously monitored" by doctors and treated humanely

The plight of hunger-striking political prisoners in South Africa was not attracting the international media attention it deserved, Anti-Apartheid Movement's president Archbishop Trevor Huddleston said in London yesterday

The "callous handling" of the political prisoners hunger strike is reminiscent of repressive government policy during 1985, Peace and Justice Dr Allan Boesak told about 50 people during a dusk candle-lit vigil outside the gates of Pollsmoor Prison last night

If the strikers were not released the country was "heading towards a very serious crisis", he warned

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of 21/5/91

Govt 'still silent' on hunger strikers

253

Monday 22/5/91

WILSON ZWANE

THERE was little hope that five hospitalised prisoners — who enter the 22nd day of their hunger strike today — would be released in the near future, Hunger Strike Committee lawyer Willie Hofmeyr said yesterday.

Hofmeyr said since the release of one of the prisoners, journalist Rafiq Rohan, from Cape Town's Somerset Hospital on Monday there "has been no word from the government on the remaining prisoners"

He said government should take "drastic action" if the situation was to be resolved. "The prisoners cannot wait to be released" The five prisoners include ANC guerrilla Gordon Webster, who collapsed on Sunday Hofmeyr said they were "very weak and cannot go to the toilet by themselves"

He said demonstrations "in solidarity with the prisoners" would be held this week — with Parliament targeted for mass action tomorrow

Rohan was due to take part in a "candlelight demonstration" outside the Somerset

Hospital last night

A former Post Natal news editor, Rohan was released from hospital on Monday night after a senior doctor had warned that he was in danger and had suffered slight organ disorders

Sapa reports Rohan said he was fully aware of the risks when he started the protest, adding "I was not concerned about what happened to me physically I knew I could destroy organs, but all I wanted was to secure my release"

Rohan said he had been suffering from an ulcer

Meanwhile the ANC's southern Free State region yesterday called for a stayaway, fast and one-day consumer boycott today to show solidarity with the hunger strikers

Cosatu's western Cape region will decide on a possible general strike later this week

SA urged to be 'AIDS-friendly'

JONATHAN REES
Monday 22/5/91
A GOVERNMENT organisation said yesterday homosexual men and women should be referred to as "alternative sex practitioners" and prostitutes as "commercial sex workers"

A glossary of "AIDS-friendly" words was published yesterday by the National Health and Population Development Department's AIDS Unit

Unit head Dr Manda Holmshaw said experience in other countries had shown scare tactics in AIDS education did not work, so words which tended to victimise or stigmatise people should be replaced with more sensitive and informative terms

"Person with AIDS" had become an internationally recognised, and more accurate and acceptable, alternative to "AIDS sufferer" or "AIDS victim"

The term "promiscuity" was moralising but "multi-partner lifestyle" laid no blame, Holmshaw said

'Radical changes likely' in private health sector

SA's private health sector would be forced to "quite radically" restructure in the future, Wits Health Policy Unit researcher Dr Max Price said in Pretoria yesterday

Addressing 200 delegates at the annual Pharmaceutical Society of SA conference, Price said the privatisation of the past decade was "history" and he predicted that demand for private health care would level out

The private health sector was unable to contain the escalation of costs which had resulted in medical aid contributions rocketing seven to 20 points above the inflation rate

Price said he believed that the market for medical aid — and therefore private

sector health care — had reached a plateau and could even decline

The reasons were the anticipated continued rise in costs, changes to the Medical Schemes Act which allowed flexible packages and risk rating, and the threatened deregulation of the insurance and medical aid industries

These changes could end cross-subsidisation in medical aid schemes

Our Cape Town Correspondent reports that Barbara Gie, a member of Groote Schuur Hospital's costing committee, told the conference the hospital had cut last year's expenditure on medicine by R3,3m, nearly 10%

Wes

Nature reserve for Robben Island

Environment Reporter

253 ARG 22/5/91

THE Directorate of Nature and Environmental Conservation has been given the go-ahead to start working on plans for a museum and nature reserve on the northern part of Robben Island

The executive committee of the Cape Provincial Administration had agreed to the plan at a meeting this week, said a statement by Cape Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring

The directorate would work on the project with the Department of Correctional Services, he said

"The establishment of a reserve will ensure a safe breeding place for seabirds and will promote the conservation of the Cape penguin

"It will also benefit the herds of game which have been established on the island over the past few years," Mr Meiring said

Robben Island is part of a marine reserve stretching from Kommetjie to Bloubergstrand.

Winnie held after ANC city march

● From Page 1
Star 22/5/91
consulting body between June
11 and June 14

The case of the fifth prisoner had been considered yesterday and a decision regarding his application for release was expected soon

Some hunger striking prisoners had been invited to submit written representations to the consulting body or to be represented by their lawyers.

"It is therefore completely irresponsible for these prisoners to remain on hunger strike," Mr Coetsee said

Mr Mandela, announcing the fast yesterday, said the Government had agreed in principle last year to release all prisoners held for offences committed in the name of eliminating apartheid "Mass action" was being taken now, he said, "because we can't get results by persuasion and discussion."

The ANC is demanding the release of all prisoners said to have committed crimes as a result of political convictions.

The Government has accused the organisation of procrastination which has delayed the release process and the vetting of prisoners to determine whether or not they qualified for release

Yesterday the Minister of Constitutional Affairs, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, reiterated that the Government could not "just open the prison doors to everyone .. we have to consider whether certain acts were political offences"

Releasing people without such consideration would undermine the courts and rule of law, he said

The ANC's National Executive Committee, including Mr Mandela, started a 24-hour fast in sympathy with the hunger strikes at 6 pm yesterday

Demonstrations and vigils in South Africa were matched by sympathisers in several world capitals, according to an ANC press statement

As part of the campaign an advertisement to be placed in the Washington Post tomorrow, signed by US civil rights and church leaders, is headed "Don't let South African political prisoners die"

The advertisement accuses the Government of responding with brutality to the prisoners

Women block road with chain Winnie held after ANC street demo

Star 22/5/91
Staff Reporters

Winnie Mandela and nearly 100 other ANC women were arrested in Johannesburg today as ANC leaders embarked on a 24-hour fast and launched an international campaign for the release of political prisoners.

Mrs Mandela was arrested shortly after dawn when a group of ANC women blocked a city centre intersection with a heavy chain, police said

The women, members of the ANC Women's League national executive, were demanding the release of hunger strikers who entered the 22nd day of their fast today

According to police spokesman Captain Eugene Opperman, Mrs Mandela and a group of 17 were arrested on charges of obstructing traffic at the Rissik and Market streets intersection and resisting arrest

Members of the city's Traffic and Security Department carried out most of the arrests. Police cut the chain with bolt cutters

Later about 80 ANC women demonstrating in support of Mrs Mandela outside John Vorster Square were arrested

Captain Opperman said the women, "more specifically" Mrs Mandela, resisted arrest "They were obstructing the traffic. Uniform and traffic police had no choice

other than to arrest them."

Nelson Mandela said this morning he had received reports that his wife had been assaulted by the police and had been "thrown to the ground" Later he went to John Vorster Square to inquire about his wife.

Mrs Mandela, out on bail pending the hearing of her application for leave to appeal against her conviction and six-year jail sentence she was given last week, was taken to John Vorster Square with her 17 arrested companions

The charge office reverberated with protest songs from about 80 other women protesters who had followed her, singing at the top of their voices.

Dogs

Major B A Smith told them their gathering was illegal and they must disperse

When he told them they were under arrest the women cheered wildly and surged towards the doors to the police station.

Police dog handlers struggled to keep their animals under control.

"We are being arrested for our rights, so we are happy," said one of the protesters as she elbowed people out of the way to be one of the first

The women would be charged with public obstruction, said Captain Opperman

All the women, including Mrs Mandela, were due to appear briefly in the Magis-

trate's Court later today.

The arrests came as the ANC moved to bring the issue of South African political prisoners back into the world spotlight, and five hospitalised hunger strikers were warned by doctors they were on the brink of irreversible liver damage

Twenty-three Robben Island prisoners started the hunger strike on May 1.

Six were later transferred to hospital as their health deteriorated. One, former Post Natal news editor Rafiq Rohan, was freed yesterday

According to the ANC, international protests staged today would include a fast by Amsterdam dignitaries, a London vigil at South African House, and a fast by officials of the American civil rights body the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In Cape Town, the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services Mr Kobie Coetsee said the action of hunger striking prisoners was irresponsible

It was equally irresponsible for anyone to encourage or support hunger striking prisoners, Mr Coetsee said in a statement

He said the cases of five hunger strikers presently being treated at Somerset Hospital, who had all been jailed for offences related to murder, were under review

Four of these prisoners would be considered by the

● To Page 2

SOMERSET, Wednesday, May 22, 1991

I was ready to die - hunger striker

GOING without food for 20 days in demand of freedom was insane, but he had no regrets, freed hunger striker Rafiq Rohan said yesterday.

The hunger strikers had been prepared to go all the way, he said, adding that he was still weak and his mind was disoriented.

"It was release or death. We were prepared to see the thing through until the end," he told reporters at Somerset Hospital, where he was a prisoner until 11pm on Monday.

Political prisoners not freed by the April 30 deadline had simply been "hostages", he said.

"It was one of the hardest things in my case I knew I was supposed to have been released. There is no method in this madness which the Government has employed in releasing people."

He said the conditions of the five prisoners still in hospital were critical. He had kidney damage, blood in his urine and septic ulcers brought on by anxiety three months ago.

Freed 22/5/91

A full recovery and celebrating his seven-year-old daughter's birthday was uppermost in his mind.

He also wanted to get his comrades freed. He knew what was going through their minds because he had experienced the same feelings on Robben Island, where prisoners crowded around a release list to see who was being freed.

Those whose names were not on the list were devastated, he said. He said the person left behind felt guilty because he did not want his comrades to go.

"It is like a forced removal but on a different plane."

When he was told on Monday night he was being freed "I did not want to believe it. I was too tired of hoping that this time it would be me. When I was finally told at 11pm, I broke down completely."

Tired

Monday "I was afraid I would wake up and find it had been a dream."

He said yesterday should have been the happiest of his life but he was sad at leaving behind "people I have lived with for years."

"I went up to Gordon (Gordon Webster who has been jailed for 24 years) and told him 'We both broke down crying'."

Each of the six political prisoners at Somerset Hospital was shackled to beds at one stage, Rohan said.

On his arrival from Robben Island he saw the five other hospitalised prisoners shackled to beds.

"When they came to put the shackles on me, I complained. But they said it was part of the procedure. I was shackled to my bed. All six of us were at one stage."

Political Staff

chosen only in time for the competition in the USSR in 1992

replaced by "a piggy-back on VAT".

Vigil held for hunger-strikers

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22/5/91

ABOUT 60 people held a candlelight vigil under the windows of the Somerset Hospital ward of five hunger-striking political prisoners early last night.

About five police vans were parked outside the hospital grounds and police kept a watchful eye on the proceedings

However, an agreement between the duty matron and police stipulated that the group could stand near the prisoners' ward, at the old hospital building, and that no action would be taken against them

Meanwhile, members of organisations affiliated to the ANC and Cosatu last night began a day-long fast in support of the hunger-strikers

AN ANC spokesman said the fast was the start of a series of actions to pressurise the government to release all political prisoners

According to a Cosatu statement, mass actions were being held "to create a greater public awareness of the bad-faith negotiations of the government and the plight of the hunger-strikers".

'657 exiles have returned to SA'

16/5/91

Political Staff

BY May 2 this year 657 exiles had returned to South Africa, the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Gene Louw, said yesterday.

He said in reply to a question tabled by Mr Louis Stofberg, CP, Sasolburg, that 637 exiles returned under the banner of the ANC and 20 by mediation of the National Co-ordinating Committee for the Repatriation

of South African Exiles.

"There is no definitive indication of how many exiles there are abroad and how many of them would want to return to South Africa," Mr Louw said

It has, however, been estimated that there are some 40 000 South African exiles but their return has been delayed for various reasons

WIMMINERS

At the 11th
twice in
one day

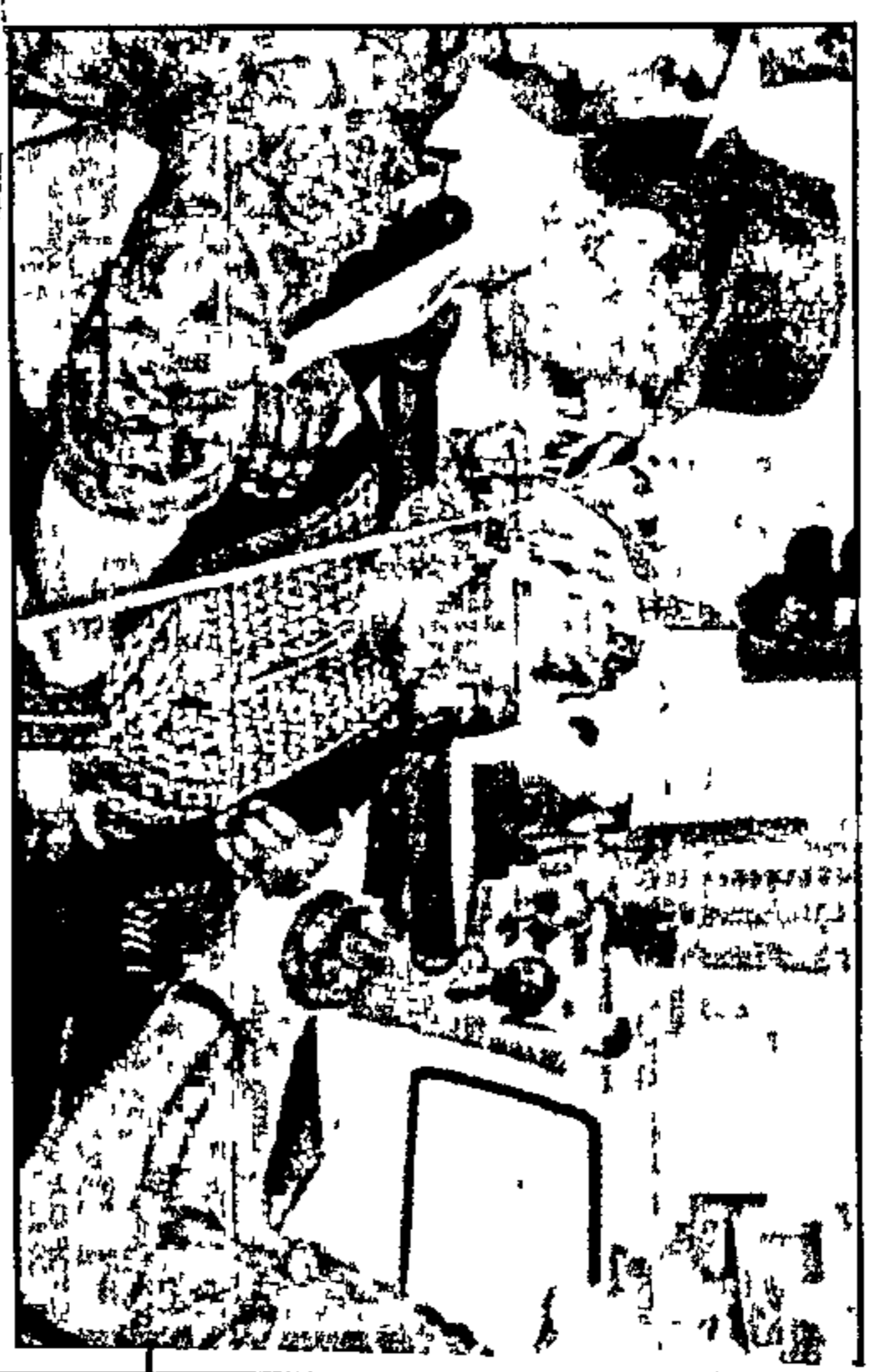
Sowetan 23/5/91

DAY

OF

RAGE

Police grab Winnie Mandela for the second time yesterday during protests to demand the release of political prisoners on hunger strikes. She was arrested twice for staging public protests.



Protesters arrested

From Page 1

Mandela and the others, was also arrested.

Soon after the arrests, Mr Mandela made frantic efforts to secure their release.

Police apparently undertook to release the "Sisulu group" yesterday afternoon but 185 of the 205 arrested insisted on remaining in police cells until all political prisoners were released.

Mr Mandela contacted Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok and Regional Police Commissioner General Gerrit Erasmus.

A police spokesman, commenting on the

protest outside John Vorster Square, said last night.

"The majority of people in the group dispersed. Mrs Winnie Mandela and two other women were arrested and taken to John Vorster Square police station. They will later appear in court."

An ANCWL statement from the cells called on women to present themselves for arrest at police stations and prisons throughout the country.

Meanwhile, the ANC national executive committee last night suspended its 24-hour fast over political prisoners.

Taking the first symbolic bite from a biscuit on behalf of the NEC in Johannesburg was NEC member Mr Mzwali Phiso.

"Is the Government prepared to take the responsibility and face the consequences if any of those comrades should

die," he asked, calling for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners.

And locally and internationally, pressure mounted on the Government yesterday for the immediate and unconditional release of political prisoners on hunger strike.

Locally, actions included a march to the State President's residence in Cape Town last night.

With the support of numerous community organisations - the ANC, PAC, Azapo and Cosatu - the countrywide actions also included protest meetings, vigils and placard demonstrations to support the hunger strikers' demands.

Prominent personalities fasted yesterday in Holland, Britain, the United States and Germany.

By KAMAL SINGH and Sapa

Mrs Winnie Mandela was yesterday arrested twice after she led demonstrations by women to launch a local and international campaign for the immediate release of political prisoners.

Mrs Mandela, wife of ANC deputy president Mr Nelson Mandela, was first arrested soon after dawn with 13 other ANC Women's League members for obstructing traffic at the intersection of Russik and Market streets in Johannesburg.

She and two women were charged with resisting arrest while 11 were charged with obstructing traffic.

After a brief appearance in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court the case was postponed to June 21.

She was arrested for the second time when the group demonstrated outside the court.

"What are you doing? Don't pull me, don't pull me," Mrs Mandela shouted at police who dragged her across the intersection in front of the City Hall fountains.

She entered a police car but before getting in to be driven to John Vorster Square, told reporters: "You see for yourselves these vicious men have manhandled me for the second time."

Another group led by ANC Women's League vice president Mrs Albertina Sisulu, which was protesting near John Vorster Square against the morning arrest of Mrs

25 kg

IMPALA

SPECIAL MAIZE MEAL

2,5 kg

730

TAXIERS

WANNY

25 kg

730

TAXIERS

March to parliament: Hani arrested

Political Staff and Sapa

MR. CHRIS HANI, chief of staff of Umkhonto, we Sizwe and former terrorism accused Mr. Tony Yengeni, were among several people arrested near Parliament this afternoon when police broke up an attempted march calling for the release of hunger strikers.

Freelance photographer Mr. Mike Hutchings was also among those arrested. Some people appeared to resist arrest and were manhandled by police.

Before the intended march to Parliament, Mr. Hani told an impromptu news conference that he had visited hunger striking prisoners at Somerset Hospital this morning.

He said their spirits were strong and they were determined to fast until they were free.

He called on President De Klerk to release the hunger strikers if he wanted to move the country forwards from the brink of collapse.

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu was scheduled to meet President De Klerk later, raising hopes that the problem would be resolved.

The city-centre march followed last night's attempt by protesters to march from the University of Cape Town to Mr. De Klerk's Westbrooke home. Police blocked the demonstration.

According to attorney Mr. Willie Hofmeyr, Mafi Percival Mgobhozi, 24, was transferred to Somerset Hospital from Pollsmoor Prison yesterday.

He also said Chris Mofokeng, the first hunger striker to be admitted to hospital, collapsed yesterday and medical staff put him in an oxygen tent on a drip.

He said the condition of the hunger strikers was deteriorating.

Seven Muslim organisations have welcomed the release of former hunger striker Mr. Rafiq Rohan.

In a statement they said his release came 20 days after the agreed deadline for the release of all political prisoners. This showed that the state was not serious in creating a climate conducive to real change. ● See page 5

US backing for hunger strikers

By David Braun
Star Bureau

Star
2315791

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WASHINGTON — The hunger strike is blowing up to a major issue in the United States with American entertainers joining forces with leading political, religious and labour leaders in urging President de Klerk to free immediately all political prisoners.

A group of 40 prominent individuals and organisations have issued a statement to the US media condemning the South African Government's handling of political prisoners on hunger strike.

The statement, which is

also to be published as an advertisement in the Washington Post today, urges the American public to send telegrams to President de Klerk at the Union Buildings in Pretoria, asking him to keep his word and free immediately all political prisoners.

Among the signatories to the statement are entertainers Spike Lee and Danny Glover, New York City mayor David Dinkins, US Senator Paul Simon, US Congressmen Ronald Dellums, Howard Wolpe, Edolphus Towns and Charles Rangel, Rabbi David Sapperstein of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Rev Jo-

seph Lowery of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the US Edmund Browning, Rev Joan Campbell of the US National Council of Churches, and Little Steven van Zandt of Artists United Against Apartheid.

The coalition and advertisement was co-ordinated by The Africa Fund in New York, one of the oldest and most prominent anti-apartheid organisations in the US.

Major US television stations gave prominence yesterday to the 24-hour fast by African National Congress leaders in sympathy with the hunger strikers.

Namibia asks SA to free bomber

SAW 231571-

The Namibian Government yesterday summoned South Africa's representative in Windhoek, Riaan Eksteen, to ask for the South African Government's intervention in the case of a Swapo member held in in Pretoria Central Prison

Udo Froese, a Swapo member who is working for the release of Leonard Sheehama, told Sapa that yesterday's meeting at the Namibian Foreign Office meant that diplomatic contact "on the highest level" had started.

Sheehama, a Namibian citizen, has been imprisoned in South Africa following his arrest for a 1987 bombing of a butchery in Walvis Bay. Five people were killed in the attack.

The death sentence was handed down to Sheehama for the bombing.

However, Mr Froese said Sheehama has now been transferred from Pretoria's death row and is being held on charges of high treason.

Mr Froese has written to the South African and Namibian governments urging them to negotiate Sheehama's case, and to allow him to return to Namibia.

— Sapa.

More join ANC solidarity fast

ct 23/5/91
JOHANNESBURG — Several organisations yesterday joined the ANC's call to fast for a day in solidarity with a reported 197 political prisoners on hunger strike, and to press for their immediate release

The 24-hour fasts here were led by ANC leaders Mr Nelson Mandela and Mr Walter Sisulu, and SA Communist Party secretary-general Mr Joe Slovo. They ended the fast at 6pm yesterday.

Members of local branches of the ANC, SACP and the Congress of SA Trade Unions began fasting at noon.

Representatives of the National Union of SA Students, the National Medical and Dental Association, the SA Health Workers' Congress, the World Congress for Peace and Reconciliation, the Union of Democratic University Staff Associations and the Hunger Strikers Support Committee joined the fast.

There were two evening rush-hour pickets by a handful of protesters in central Johannesburg.

Marchers toyi-toyi

ANC spokesman Mr Mohammed Valli Moosa claimed at a press conference that several people in Holland, the United Kingdom, the United States and Germany were also fasting.

A special message of support had been received from the mayor of New York, he added.

In Stockholm, Sweden, youths protested outside the South African embassy.

In Pretoria, ANC regional chairman Mr Abe Nkomo said several branch members had joined the fast.

In Durban, about 800 toyi-toying people held a lunchtime march through the city centre in support of the hunger-strikers.

ARCHBISHOP Desmond Tutu is to meet President F W de Klerk in Cape Town today to discuss the problems facing the country.

It is understood their talks will centre on the violence and the hunger strike by political prisoners.

The march was the culmination of an all-night vigil on Tuesday.

Also in Durban, students from the University of Durban-Westville boycotted lectures in support of the hunger strike.

● Six prisoners, on the 22nd day of their hunger strike, are being treated in Somerset Hospital, Green Point.

Justice Minister Mr Kobie Coetsee said in a statement from Cape Town on Tuesday that all of the prisoners had applied for release.

A decision on one of the cases was expected shortly, and another four would be considered next month, he said.

"It is therefore completely irresponsible for these prisoners to remain on hunger strike."

At Barberton, in the Eastern Transvaal, seven hunger-striking prisoners were in leg-irons and handcuffed when they were admitted to hospital, according to the Human Rights Commission.

One of the prisoners was reported to be in a serious condition.

A spokesman for the Department of Correctional Services denied any allegations of mistreatment.

All prisoners have vowed to fast until they are released or until they die.

— Sapa

Hunger-striker ⁽²⁵³⁾ 'was unconscious'

23/5/91
HUNGER-STRIKER Chris Mofokeng collapsed and lost consciousness on Tuesday and had to be revived with oxygen by Somerset Hospital doctors, ANC attorney Mr Willie Hofmeyr claimed last night

Mofokeng, one of six hunger-striking "politicals" in the Cape Town hospital, was yesterday into the 22nd day of his fast for freedom

A fasting political prisoner at Pollsmoor Prison, Mafi Percival Mgobhozi, was transferred to Somerset Hospital yesterday, said Mr Hofmeyr

Fellow hunger-striker Gordon Webster apparently collapsed, and was revived, last Sunday, according to doctors

A spokeswoman for the Somerset Hospital said yesterday that she had been instructed by the superintendent, Dr J W Roux, to refer inquiries about the prisoners' condition to Pollsmoor Prison

According to Mr Hofmeyr, the government had given no indication that it was prepared to take urgent action to save the lives and health of the hunger-strikers — Sapa

UK vigil for 23
27 23/5/91
hunger-strikers

LONDON. — The Anti-Apartheid Movement's (AAM's) weekly one-hour vigil outside the SA embassy here yesterday featured trade union leaders speaking in support of SA's hunger-striking political prisoners

Mr Bill Morris, deputy secretary-general of the Transport and General Workers' Union, was the main speaker — Sapa

Hunger strike deaths would have horrendous results,

CAPE TOWN — A church delegation led by Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu yesterday warned President F W de Klerk of "horrendous" consequences if any hunger-striking political prisoners died.

The delegates appealed to him to give about 70 hunger strikers immediate amnesty.

In other developments Umkhonto we Sizwe chief of staff Chris Hani was arrested during a demonstration to demand the prisoners' release, and three prominent human rights campaigners resigned from the indemnity committees set up in terms of the Pretoria Minute.

protest march near parliament, warned that negotiations could be jeopardised if any ANC prisoner was "allowed to die".

Tutu said De Klerk and Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee had promised during the 90-minute meeting to speed up the release process, but that government had not given a time frame for completing the process.

He said the church delegation had warned De Klerk that the consequences for SA — at home and abroad — would be "quite horrendous" if hunger strikers died. What was necessary was an "act of statesmanship" by De Klerk to defuse the crisis, rather than simply an undertaking "to expedite the process", he said. "It is a

matter of life and death"

De Klerk said in a short statement last night he had told Tutu the cases of all hunger-striking prisoners were being considered "in accordance with principles agreed upon with the ANC".

The statement said De Klerk expressed his "deep concern at the seriousness of the situation". DARIUS SANAI reports that ANC internal leader Walter Sisulu claimed yesterday that government was "delaying and possibly derailing" the negotiation process by not releasing the remaining political

prisoners.

He told a Wits University meeting the ANC was "very concerned" that the issue was proving an obstacle to negotiations.

WILSON ZWANE reports three top human rights and anti-apartheid campaigners yesterday quit the indemnity committees set up in terms of the Pretoria Minute. Human Rights Commission (HRC) president Max Coleman and advocates Dullah Omar and Lewis Skweyiza said in a statement they were appalled that the first meeting of the committees had been set for June 11 — by which time a number of political prisoners would have been on hunger strike for more than 40 days.

Tutu warns FW

They also took exception to the stipulation that as ad hoc members of the committees they had to take an oath of secrecy. "The issue of taking an oath of secrecy was brought by us, to the attention of the three judges (convenors of the committees) on May 6. They undertook to convey it to President de Klerk but we have heard nothing," they said.

They added that the work of the committees had been "completely" overtaken by events and was no longer viable.

The committees were established to process indemnity applications. The three were to act as advisory members.

Hunger strike is blowing up as major issue

WASHINGTON - The hunger strike is blowing up to a major issue in the United States with American entertainers joining forces with leading political, religious and labour leaders in urging President FW de Klerk to free immediately all political prisoners

A group of 40 prominent individuals and organisations have issued a statement to the US media condemning the South African Government's handling of political prisoners on hunger strike

Published

The statement, which was also published as an advertisement in the Washington Post on Thursday, urged the American public to send telegrams to De Klerk at the Union Buildings in Pretoria, asking him to keep his word and free immediately all political prisoners

Among the signatories to the statement are entertainers Spike Lee and Danny Glover, New York City mayor David

Dinkins, US Senator Paul Simon, US Congressman Ronald Dellums, Howard Wolpe, Edolphus Towns and Charles Rangel, Rabbi David Sapperstein of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Episcopal Bishop of Long Island Orris Walker, Rev Joseph Lowery of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the US Edmund Browning, Rev Joan Campbell of the US National Council of Churches, Bishop Herbert Chilstrom of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, William Lucy of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Gay McDougall of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the National Council of Jewish Women, Richard Trumka of United Mine-workers of America, and Little Steven van Zandt of Artists United Against Apartheid

The coalition and advertisement was coordinated by The Africa Fund in New York, one of the oldest and most prominent anti-apartheid

organisations in the US

The advertisement, under a headline "Don't Let South African Political Prisoners Die" notes nearly 200 political prisoners are on hunger strike

"Almost a year ago the apartheid government promised that by April 30 all political prisoners would be released. Today 1 700 are still behind bars. When the promise was broken the prisoners were forced to embark on a hunger strike to appeal to the conscience of the world. Now many are near death," it says

Shocking

The advertisement adds "The South African Government has responded with shocking brutality. Hunger strikes have been chained to their beds. Others have been denied water, been beaten by guards and even taken to a prison mortuary where they were told they would be allowed to freeze to death. Doctors and relatives have been denied access to hunger strikers.

"We as Americans from all walks of life are compelled to raise our voices for the sake of humanity and justice. This is all the more urgent in the face of the alarming silence from our government," it says

Meanwhile, Dellums, a former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, has circulated a letter among his fellow legislators informing them of hunger strike and saying sanctions must not be lifted against South Africa until it was clear that the steps taken toward non-racial democracy were irreversible.

"I believe it is important that we send a message to the South African Government that Congress does not approve of the retrenchment of the system of apartheid and that we do support the fight being waged by the hunger strikers," Dellums said in the letter dated May 16.

Dellums said in his letter that letters smuggled out of prisons reported hunger strikers had been cut off from visits from family and friends.

At some facilities, exercise time had been revoked and prisoners participating in the hunger strike were not allowed to shower.

Officials were also refusing to allow physicians from outside the facilities to treat the hunger strikers.

Major US television stations gave prominence this week to the 24 hour fast by ANC leaders in sympathy with the hunger strikers - *Sowetan Correspondent*

may take



Sonia Gandhi the grieving widow

Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who was executed in 1979. After his jailer and successor Gen Muhammad Zia ul Haq died in a plane crash in 1988 Bhutto led Pakistan for 20 months and is now an opposition leader.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh two months ago became the first leader to take power through a fair and free election in her coup-prone

country's 20 year history. Her husband, Gen Ziaur Rahman, was assassinated in a 1981 coup.

Bangladesh's chief opposition leader, Sheikh Hasina, is Zia's longtime personal and political foe, but she joined her in the campaign for multi party democracy. Hasina is the daughter of Bangladesh's first president, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who was assassinated in a 1975 coup - *Sapa-AP*

Indemnity

process is collapsing

By CARMEL RICKARD Durban

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THE unwieldy bureaucratic mechanism for dealing with release and indemnity applications is on the brink of collapse.

The latest blow is the withdrawal of the African National Congress nominees due to sit on the consulting bodies charged with making recommendations on "borderline cases".

They are pulling out in protest against the fact that the applications of several hunger striking prisoners will only be considered by the consulting bodies in mid-June, by which time they will have been fasting for 45 days and might be dead. One of the hunger strikers whose case is only due to be considered then is Chris Mofokeng, who collapsed and lost consciousness this week and had to receive emergency treatment.

The nominees say it is unacceptable and callous to delay considering such cases until mid-June.

The number of applications for release and indemnity has risen beyond the ability of the system to cope, and lawyers estimate at the current rate it would take three to five years to process all prisoners, trialists and exiles.

The government has already failed to meet the the April 30 deadline for the release of prisoners and the return of exiles and as ANC frustration grows, it can only be a matter of time until the issue causes another major rift in relations.

One of the ANC nominees who has withdrawn from the consulting bodies (or indemnity committees) said that from the start they had experienced difficulties.

Their appointment was not officially approved by the government until April 24, a week before the expiry of the deadline.

At their first meeting with the three judges heading the committees, the ANC nominees objected to the secrecy oath, and the judges undertook to report to the government on their objections. They have, however, still not been informed whether the state is prepared to drop the requirement.

The three judges have been considering some applications on their own, but the first cases in which the nominees would also be involved were set down for mid-June.

One of the nominees, Max Coleman, said that the system was completely unworkable as shown by the rocketing number of applications and the growing backlog. The nominees also "profoundly disagreed" with the whole mechanism, which gave the government all the power, instead of making it a process administered by two equal parties.

Commenting on the decision of their nominees to quit the consulting committees, the ANC said it respected the position they had taken.

When freedom means facing 'the ultimate outcome'

W/Mail 24/5 - 29/5/91

(253)

One of the more than 190 prisoners on hunger strike since May 2 describes what it is like to 'probe the unknown'.

By HUBERT MATLOU

NEO POTSANE left his hospital bed and walked down the corridor to the smoking room. He walked slowly, though comfortably. Once he was seated, he cheerfully lit up a cigarette.

Wearing a blue track-suit and running shoes, the slightly built young man looked like any other Johannesburg Hospital patient — except for the presence of two prison warders who escorted him as he left his ward.

Potsane is one of more than 190 prisoners who have been on hunger strike since May 2 in protest against their continued imprisonment after the April 30 deadline for the release of political prisoners.

He is serving a 25-year prison term after being convicted of murder and illegal possession of arms and ammunition in the "Delmas II" trial. He refused to participate in the court proceedings, claiming prisoner-of-war status.

Despite the fact that Potsane is being held incommunicado and is under guard, *The Weekly Mail* managed to spend an afternoon with him. Relaxing in the smoking room, he gave an insight into what it is like to "prepare for the ultimate outcome" of a hunger strike.

"I will not stop my fast until I have signed my release documents. It is an undertaking I am prepared to die for."

He said he felt emotionally strong. "I have prepared myself psychologically — even for the ultimate outcome. Either I am released or I will die."

Potsane said embarking on a fast was like "probing the unknown. I cannot say it is easy going. But one gets used to it after some time."

"It was a decision taken soberly and consciously as a collective by the prisoners. We were well aware of its possible consequences. But you must understand, this is my only weapon as a prisoner to set myself free."

"Preparing myself psychologically doesn't mean thinking about death each and every moment. Death will come when it comes."

Potsane said he also felt physically able to go on with his fast. "I have been taking two and a half litres of water daily to lessen the risks to my health, particularly to my kidneys."

There were no serious medical complications so far, he added. However, one problem was that he felt very cold, particularly in his feet.

He began his hunger strike in the Johannesburg Prison on May 2, after the



PLAYING PATIENCE ... Neo Potsane awaits his fate in Johannesburg Hospital

Photo: KEVIN CARTER

deadline on releasing political prisoners passed at the end of April. Two weeks later he was admitted to the Johannesburg Hospital, where he was put on a drip and his condition stabilised after 48 hours.

Potsane shares a ward with another hunger striker from Johannesburg Prison, Muzi Nyathi.

Potsane he said he did not consider himself a prisoner any more, but "a victim of the regime's double agenda to undermine and cause friction and disarray within the African National Congress".

He added that he believed the gov-

ernment was holding prisoners as hostages. "Instead of releasing all prisoners unconditionally, it has introduced a host of bureaucratic procedures in order to delay our release."

He said he had applied for indemnity in terms of the Pretoria Minute. "As a political prisoner, in particular a war prisoner, the hunger strike is my only weapon to secure my release."

Though the hospital is not a top-security installation and security is not stringent, Potsane was adamant that he would not try to escape. "I am a disciplined soldier of Umkhonto we

Sizwe — my release is not a privilege but a right."

His fellow trialists, Ting Ting Masingo and Jabu Masina, are also on hunger strike at the Johannesburg Prison. Like Potsane, they are serving 25 years for murder and illegal possession of arms and ammunition, and they also refused to participate in the court proceedings. During the trial, treason charges against all three were dropped.

A fourth accused in the case, Joseph Makhura, who was convicted of attempted murder, was recently released.

Mass action mounts over

REPOR TED abuses by prison officials, snowballing protest action and a virtual silence on the part of the government marked the fourth week of hunger striking political prisoners' fast until their "release or death".

Twenty-three days after the April 30 deadline negotiated between the African National Congress and the government for the release of all political prisoners some 1 800 are still believed to be in jail, according to the Human Rights Commission (HRC)

Of these the HRC estimates over 180 to be on hunger strike at 11 prisons around the country, including six in Somerset Hospital, Cape Town. Exact figures are virtually impossible to ascertain because of the difficulty in getting information from prisons. Doctors this week warned that those fasting were moving into "an increasingly dangerous phase" where there were no guarantees resuscitation from

collapse would succeed. Disorientation would be followed by blindness, coma and eventually death.

A debilitated Rafiq Rohan, released this week on the 21st day of his fast, told how hunger strikers in Somerset Hospital had been manacled to their beds until strenuous objections by doctors led to their being unshackled three days later.

Doctors corroborated this, saying they viewed it as a violation of the Tokyo Declaration, an international code of ethics governing the treatment of political prisoners.

Rohan also reported a "subtle form of torture", in which warders guarding the hunger strikers made a point of eating "roast chicken and other delicacies" in front of them. Despite extreme weakness and regular blackouts, his com-

Protest action calling for the release of all political prisoners is mounting as the prisons hunger strike enters its fourth week.

Concern for the health of the strikers is also on the increase

By GAYE DAVIS

rades were determined to fast until their "release of death", Rohan said.

The Department of Correctional Services has consistently denied that shackles were used on prisoners in the hospital and has also rejected other, more serious, allegations of prison officials abusing hunger strikers.

Collated by the HRC, these allegations include:

● Hunger strikers being denied water. At Groenpunt Prison, 11 hunger

strikers were allegedly denied water on the third day. Taps were locked, blankets were removed and writing material confiscated. The prisoners suspended their fast and two have laid charges of assault against a warder.

● Inadequate medical treatment. At Pretoria Local, prisoners suspended their fast on May 10 after one hunger striker, Leonard Sheehama, started passing blood and allegedly received no medical attention.

At Pietermaritzburg Prison, authorities allegedly restricted drinking water. Hunger strikers, sleeping on cement floors, claimed they received only one medical check-up, 15 days after their fast began.

● Transfer to other quarters. At Barberton Prison hunger strikers were allegedly put in the prison mortuary.

Some who suspended their fast were later charged with attempted suicide and put on a sparse diet. Prisoners at Beihal alleged being transferred to colder cells, racist abuse by warders and denial of exercise rights.

At Baviaanspoort, cells were allegedly searched, strikers transferred to other cells with fewer blankets and threatened with being charged for an unspecified offence.

The Department of Correctional Services maintains that it is treating hunger strikers in strict accordance with the Tokyo Declaration; that strikers have unlimited access to water, and sufficient blankets.

It claims the number of hunger strikers is "grossly exaggerated", that "there are even fewer who are taking no food" and that "enthusiasm for the hun-

...AND FACES A RISING WAVE OF PROTEST

'release or death' strike

ger strike is declining" as prisoners "have come to realise their cases are definitely receiving consideration".

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is presently visiting prisons countrywide and also has access to prisoners on so-called hunger strikes. The department is therefore satisfied these prisoners are being dealt with responsibly in terms of prescribed policy and allegations of abuse of hunger strikers are therefore rejected.

However, the head of the ICRC's South African delegation, Tony Pfanner, told *The Weekly Mail* yesterday that so far only two prisons — Pietermaritzburg and Pretoria Local — had been visited.

He was also "not at liberty" to confirm or deny whether or not prison authorities were abiding by the Tokyo Decla-

tion. In terms of an agreement between the ICRC and the government, any such abuses would only be reported directly to the government, on a confidential basis, Pfanner said.

The HRC said this week there appeared to be "a concerted, almost brutal effort" on the part of prison authorities to break the hunger strike.

"In spite of the pronouncements of the justice minister and the state president, evidence shows that the process of political prisoner release is only one-third complete at a time when it should have been history," the HRC said this week.

As doctors and healthworkers sounded warnings of the "grave danger" the men were in and protest campaigns got underway across the country and in the US, Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee slammed the action as "irresponsible".

He said the cases of five hunger strikers at Somerset Hospital, who had been jailed for offences involving murder, were under review. The cases of four of them would be considered between June 11 and 14 while the fifth was considered on Tuesday and a decision on his release was "expected soon". This means the four prisoners face continuing their fast beyond 40 days.

GAVIN EVANS reports that the hunger strikers include at least 117 convicted political prisoners in South African prisons, 12 awaiting trial prisoners, and one prisoner, Frans Mokomane, from Bophuthatswana's Rooigrond prison, who is believed to be in a serious condition.

The HRC has supplied *The Weekly Mail* with details of 13 hunger strikers

whose condition has been described as "extremely serious". Among them are Gordon Webster, who collapsed on Sunday, the 19th day of his hunger strike, and lost consciousness; and former Robben Island prisoner Chris Mofokeng who is unable to walk, has difficulty talking, is suffering from memory loss and has lost at least 17kg.

Meanwhile, protest actions in support of the hunger strikers are mounting. On Wednesday night more than 3 000 ANC supporters staged a "tactical retreat" after being confronted by scores of riot policemen while marching from the University of Cape Town to State President FW de Klerk's residence. The march followed a UCT rally addressed by Hani, who slammed the government and criticised the media for

"marginalising" the hunger strike. "We shall not participate in any constitutional talks until political prisoners are freed," Hani said to huge applause. In Johannesburg, police fired teargas and stun grenades at women demonstrators and arrested and charged Winnie Mandela twice as ANC Women's League members took to the streets.

Mandela and the entire national executive of the league were arrested after blocking a city street with a heavy chain in the early hours of Wednesday.

She and 11 others were released after being charged with obstructing a public road and the case was postponed until June 21. Mandela then returned to the intersection with a group of supporters and was again arrested.

After a 90-minute meeting with Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu yesterday, State President FW de Klerk said the death of any hunger striker would be horrendous for the country and undertook to short-circuit the release process.

Mandela sees hunger strikers

ARGUS 24/5/91

(253)

DENNIS CRUYWAGEN,
Political Staff and Sapa

Nelson Mandela paid an early morning visit to Somerset Hospital today to see hunger-striking prisoners and Mr Chris Mofokeng who has been released.

He was met by senior ANC office bearers Mr Trevor Manuel and Mr Reggie September.

His visit appeared to have caught hospital staff by surprise and caused a flurry of excitement among workers as he walked towards the superintendent's office.

Released after fasting

Mr Mofokeng, 24, was released last night after fasting for 23 days.

He was the first hunger-striker to be admitted to hospital and by yesterday his condition had deteriorated to the extent that he collapsed and lost consciousness three times.

According to lawyer Mr Willie Hofmeyr, he was given emergency treatment for 45 minutes last night before regaining consciousness.

Doctors wanted to admit him to the intensive care unit but he refused, saying he did not wish to be separated from his comrades, Mr Hofmeyr said.

Mr Mofokeng was serving 20 years for murdering two police informers.

Mr Hofmeyr confirmed that Mr Mandela had urgent talks about the strikers with the Minister of Justice and of Correctional Services, Mr Koopman Coetsee.

Meanwhile a seventh hunger striker has been admitted to hospital.

He is Johannes Africa Hlapo, 31, of Cape Town, who is serving 20 years after being convicted of terrorism and murder in the Oscar Mpetha trial.

President De Klerk yesterday expressed concern about the gravity of the hunger strike.

He said he had given Archbishop Desmond Tutu assurance that all cases under consideration at the moment were being handled in terms of principles agreed to with the ANC.

Some hunger-strikers have found unexpected allies among jailed rightwingers.

The Boerevolk prisoner Leonard Veenendal yesterday called on the government to release all political prisoners and said rightwingers in jail fasted for 48 hours in sympathy with the hunger-strikers in Somerset Hospital.

He said the government is holding political prisoners as hostages and pawns in this

distressing that the government is holding political prisoners as hostages and pawns in this

Stages

distressing that the government is holding political prisoners as hostages and pawns in this

political situation. Only the government can be held responsible if one of the hunger strikers dies," Veenendal said.

Umkhonto we Sizwe chief of staff Mr Chris Hani was among more than 120 people arrested when they attempted to march through the city to parliament yesterday to demand the strikers' release.

Mr Hani was in the first row of a group of marchers who set off for parliament from the statue of Cape liberal Afrikaner Jan Hofmeyr on Church Square.

Prevented by police from approaching the Parliament Street entrance, they went along Bureau Street where they were again confronted by police.

Journalists were ordered back as police surrounded the chanting group and made arrests.

The 120 people arrested were charged with demonstrating in the precincts of parliament and released after paying R50 admission-of-guilt fines. A journalist was arrested for allegedly assaulting police and crumpling a placard.



LEADER ARRESTED: Mr Chris Hani, right, military chief of the ANC, is bundled into a police van with other demonstrators during a placard protest on Church Square for the release of hunger strikers. He was later released.

Picture HANNES THIART, The Argus

Tutu warns of hunger strike consequences

By MICHAEL MORRIS, Political Correspondent

THE government is to speed up the process of assessing the cases of about 70 political prisoners who are on hunger strike

This emerged yesterday after Archbishop Desmond Tutu met President De Klerk about the crisis

The Archbishop said the President, who had indicated there were around 70 prisoners on hunger strike, undertook to "expedite the process"

He said he had used the 90 minute meeting to impress on Mr De Klerk the seriousness of the crisis, warning that a single death from self-inflicted starvation would have "horrendous" consequences for South Africa, at home and abroad

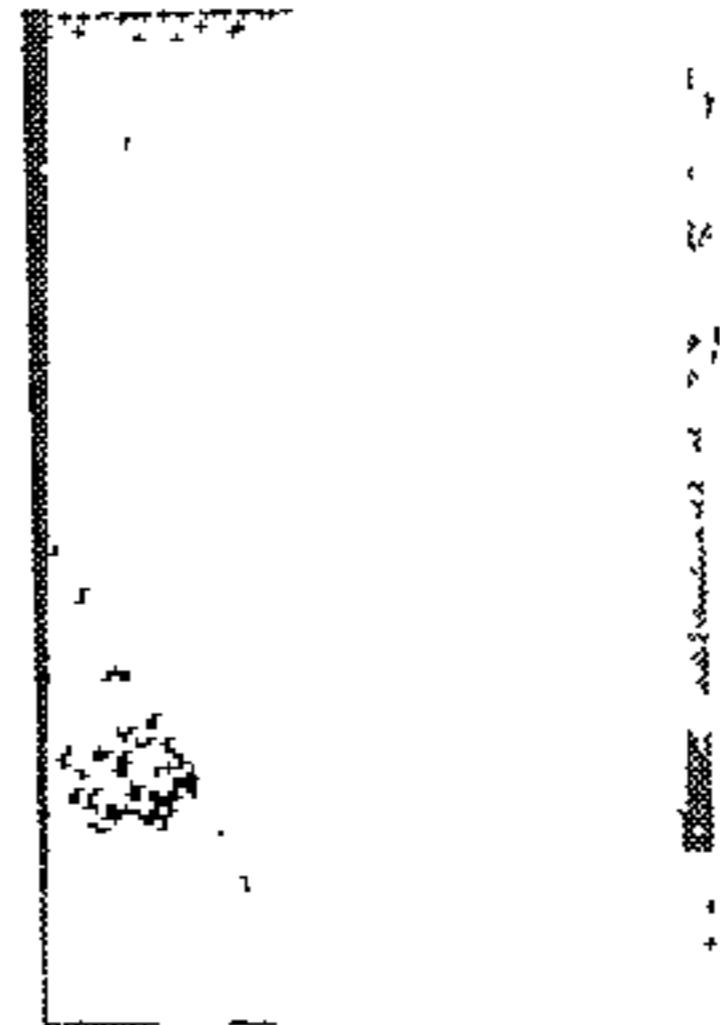
Archbishop Tutu told journalists after the meeting that there was "considerable interest" in the matter internationally and that it threatened to exacerbate an already volatile situation

He said he had conveyed the church's call for a general amnesty, saying the President would achieve a "stroke of statesmanship" if he did this

Mr De Klerk told Archbishop Tutu that the government was treating the hunger strikers according to accepted international standards. It had a concern for justice, law and good order

He said "I made my points as strongly as I could. I have been listened to and, in the usual way, we had a very profound discussion"

Archbishop Tutu



President De Klerk

16/5/91
REGAR 24/5/91

LSB

'Part of normal process'

Six hunger strikers released

Star 24/5/91

Staff Reporters

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President de Klerk authorised the release of six hunger strikers today, while his peace summit which started in Pretoria this morning was widely perceived as merely a forerunner to a fully representative peace summit sponsored by the churches.

Mr de Klerk authorised the release of three of the fasting prisoners who had reached critical stages in the 24th day of their fast in the Somerset Hospital late last night a fourth, Chris Mofokeng, was released from custody at the Somerset Hospital after doctors diagnosed that his condition was rapidly becoming irreversible.

The releases leave two hunger strikers in the Somerset Hospital, two each in the Johannesburg and Baragwanath Hospitals, and seven in Barberton, according to human rights organisations.

The other three of the six hunger strikers whose release was authorised by President de Klerk today had not yet required hospitalisation.

Today's announcement of the six releases followed a

day of intense political pressure on the Government.

Officials from the Department of Correctional Services indicated the President's decision was part of the normal process of releasing political prisoners. They said it had nothing to do with the appeals yesterday by Nelson Mandela who visited Correctional Services Minister Kobie Coetsee, and Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu who met President de Klerk and Mr Coetsee.

The released strikers are among about 130 said to be prepared to fast to the death unless given political indemnity and released.

Major

In Pretoria this morning about 200 delegates gathered for the President's peace conference.

All left-wing movements are boycotting the conference, leaving the Government and Inkatha as the only major players.

Missing are the ANC, the PAC, Azapo the trade union movement, the civics and the SA Council of Churches (SACC).

The main reason for the boycott by the "liberation movements" is the view that the Government was not

only a party to the conflict — it was also responsible for the violence and therefore had to "recuse itself from the convening chair".

Hope is now being set on a proposed SACC-sponsored peace conference.

Last night the Government again expressed the hope that its initiatives to solve the endemic violence would be broadened soon to include all of the boycotting parties.

The ANC and its allies have indicated willingness to attend an SACC conference, and churchmen believe Inkatha would complete the table.

Archbishop Tutu, who met Mr de Klerk and Mr Coetsee in Cape Town yesterday, warned of the consequences if a hunger striker died.

Mr de Klerk accepted that the death of any of the hunger strikers would be horrendous for South Africa, Archbishop Tutu said.

He told reporters that Mr de Klerk gave the assurance during their "profound discussion" that he intended to expedite the administrative process leading to the release of the striking prisoners, but that he had told the President that people were more important than processes.

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Arrested . . . Umkhonto we Sizwe chief of staff Chris Hanl (right) is held with fellow ANC member Tony Yengeni (centre) following an illegal demonstration outside Parliament yesterday. Picture Associated Press

De Klerk warned on prison fast

Staff Reporters

A CHURCH delegation led by Archbishop Desmond Tutu yesterday warned President F W de Klerk of "horrendous" consequences if any hunger-striking political prisoners died and appealed to him to give about 70 hunger-strikers immediate amnesty.

Mr De Klerk said after the meeting that the government was deeply concerned about the situation and determined to resolve it in a "humane and just" way.

But he emphasised that the hunger strikers were all being considered for release in terms of the Pretoria Minute agreement. Principles and the law itself were at issue and not procedures, he said.

Archbishop Tutu said Mr De Klerk and Minister of Justice Mr Kobie Coetsee had promised at the meeting to speed up the release process but had given no time frame.

In other developments on the hunger strike yesterday:

● Umkhonto we Sizwe chief of staff Mr Chris Hani was arrested during a demonstration in Cape Town yesterday. The protesters demanded the prisoners' release.

● Three prominent human-rights campaigners resigned from the indemnity committees set up in terms of the Pretoria Minute. The three — Dr Max Coleman, Mr Dullah Omar and Mr Lewis Skweyiya, all members of the Human Rights Commission of which Dr Coleman is president — said they were appalled that the first meeting of the committees had been set for June 11 — by which time a number of hunger strikers would have been on hunger strike for more than 40 days.

● Hunger Strike Committee lawyer Mr Willie Hofmeyr said the first prisoner to be admitted to Somerset Hospital, Mr Chris Mofokeng, whose condition has deteriorated considerably, refused yesterday to be admitted to the hospital's intensive-care unit, saying he did not want to "be separated from his comrades".

Another hunger-striking prisoner, Mr Johannes Hlapo Africa, was admitted to Somerset Hospital — bringing to six the number of prisoners at the hospital. Journalist Rafiq Rohan was released from the hospital early this week.

● Mrs Winnie Mandela visited two hunger strikers at Baragwanath Hospital yesterday. The two awaiting-trial prisoners, Mr Thabiso Tekane and Mr Molefe Metsing, have refused food for 23 days.

● Hani arrested in city — Page 2

Status quo on island unlikely to change

25/5/91 P. 11/12

JANIS FRASER
Weekend Argus Reporter

SIGHTSEERS and businessmen may be panting to plant a foothold and secure a foothold on Robben Island — a fact borne out by our Write-In last week on the island's future — but the status quo of the jail and small game reserve under Prisons and Nature Conservation control seems set to remain for some time.

Over 1 400 people, the vast majority in favour of turning the Victorian village into a tasteful Matjiesfontein-style resort and upgrading the game reserve, responded to our Write-In. In fact the suggestions are still arriving.

Meanwhile the Administrator, Mr Kobus Mering, has given permission for the Department of Nature Conservation to enter into an agreement with the Department of Prison Services to establish a small

was R24 million a year. On top of that was the maintenance of the harbour village providing accommodation for warders and other prison staff.

He said he found it abhorrent that tourists and visitors to the island would be "herded around by prison warders" when they arrived at the harbour village, the only landing site.

"Then there is the tremendous beauty of the view from the island by night. A string of lights from Melkbosstrand to Camps Bay, Table Mountain looks magnificent. Unless people can stay overnight it will never be seen."

He said the Future of Robben Island Committee believed that ideally there should be a six-month gap from the time that the Prisons Department moved out until the first tourists were allowed in. It would enable controls to be set up, he said.

"If not, every rubber duck and windsurfer will be arriving to wreck the ecology and historic buildings."

"The Parks Board doesn't have the money to establish a proper sewage disposal — at present it goes into the sea — and water and power lines from the mainland to boost the present inadequate supplies."

Ideally, Mr Malherbe said, the island harbour would become a tasteful extension of the Cape Town Victoria and

the island — formalising a situation which has in fact been in operation since 1985.

At the same time Mr Mering announced that a museum covering all periods in the Island's history will be established.

The announcement will obviously be regarded as a disappointing half-measure by the many Weekend Argus readers who responded to the Write-In. At the same time it has been dismissed as impractical by Mr Nick Malherbe of the Future of Robben Island Committee.

"Table Mountain has six governing bodies, and it's total disaster. We don't want Robben Island to go the same way."

"Surely what is needed in a Robben Island governing body reporting to the Administrator?"

Mr Malherbe said he had calculated the cost to the taxpayer of maintaining the prison

A spokesman for the Administrator's office said the prison would remain just that for the short and medium term, taking the surplus from other prisons in the area.

The harbour will remain as it is, since it is the only access point to the island. In the long term it will be controlled by whoever operates the island — Department of Correctional Services, Department of Nature Conservation or, eventually, private enterprise.

The establishment of the museum will be a subject for negotiation among all those with an involvement in the history of the island. A joint management committee of representatives from Correctional Services and Nature Conservation will be appointed.

Finances will be determined by and large by these two departments and the same committee will decide how soon easier access to Robben Island is allowed.

INCLUDES

Freed eight incl man who broke out

ARGUS
25/5/91
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TERRORISM long-term prisoner Gordon Webster is among eight more hunger strikers released without warning nearly a month after starting their fast.

A further eight prisoners in Cape Town are still refusing food. Two of them are in hospital. In all, 178 political prisoners are believed to be on hunger strike in South African jails.

Those released included three Pollsmoor prisoners and five who were in hospital.

In spite of having lost a lot of weight, the men looked healthy and happy, surrounded by friends and wellwishers at a Press conference at Somerset Hospital last night.

Three were sentenced with Oscar Mpetha, who was released more than 18 months ago.

The three, convicted of terrorism and murder, were Vusumuzi Khube, Johannes Hlapo and Raymond Mpondo.

Also released were Mandla Maseko, Patrick Khoza, Mafi Mgobhozi and Chris Mofokeng.

Webster, a surprise late arrival among the freed men, is best remembered for the dramatic way he was rescued from Edendale Hospital after being arrested in a Maritzburg shoot-out with the police. He was helped by a close friend, Robert McBride, Robert's father Derrick McBride, and Greta Apelgren. Webster was smuggled out of the country to Botswana.

The McBrides and Apelgren were arrested while they were in detention, Webster was arrested when he tried to re-enter the country.

At the Press conference, ANC Western Cape publicity secretary Mr Trevor Manuel welcomed the freed men back into active political life.

"We have been inspired by your commitment and dedication," he said.

Mr Manuel said they were the kind of people needed by the ANC and the liberation movement to free South Africa.

Released hunger-striker Mandla Maseko, who was convicted of high treason, said the government had had no alternative but to release them be-

JACQUELYN SWARTZ

Weekend Argus Reporter

cause of the pressure it was under. He thanked all the people of South Africa who supported them by demonstrating and subjecting themselves to arrest.

Maseko commended his fellow hunger strikers for never complaining in spite of their ordeal.

● The Department of Correctional Services has announced that special arrangements have been made for hunger striking political prisoners at Pollsmoor.

The department was responding to part-time district surgeon Dr Kamy Chetty after she told of being denied access to eight hunger strikers at Pollsmoor.

Dr Chetty said a "special district surgeon" had been appointed to look after the fasting prisoners. She added that the prisoners should be hospitalised, since they had been without food for 24 days.

In response, the department said a doctor would be appointed to attend to the medical needs of the hunger strikers.

Dr Chetty said the prisoners were being kept in single cells, which was disturbing. It might delay a call for a doctor to help if they collapsed.

The department confirmed that prisoners were kept in single cells, but said they "were not locked and they can move about freely in the section and the courtyard".

The statement added that any instructions issued by the doctor in charge of the prisoners' health were "strictly adhered to".

Meanwhile, the professional standards committee of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Cape Town has said the remaining hunger-strikers are in a "potentially critical state" with their lives at risk.

Internationally-accepted norms in the care of such patients must be applied, the committee said, adding that these included respecting the wishes of the patient to fast, warning of the dangers, allowing them access to health care and ensuring the autonomy of medical personnel treating them.



Picture ROY WIGLEY, Weekend Argus

□ **FREE AGAIN:** Hunger-striker Mr Gordon Webster is seen here soon after his release. In the background is Mr Trevor Manuel, spokesman for the ANC in the Western Cape, and Mr Johannes Hlapo. (25)

Hunger strike: More expected to be freed

Weekend Argus Reporters

MORE hunger strikers on a "release-or-die" fast are expected to be released in the next few days following intensified protest action and pressure from churches, African National Congress leaders and the international community.

Eight hunger strikers were released in Cape Town yesterday. Among them was long-term prisoner Gordon Webster, who featured in a dramatic rescue and escape before being arrested and tried for terrorism.

According to the Human Rights Commission, there are now 78 political prisoners who have been on hunger strike since May 1 in protest at the Pretoria-Minute release deadline.

Minister of Justice and Correctional Services Mr Kobie Coetsee has put the number at about 70.

Call from United Nations

In New York yesterday, United Nations Secretary-General Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar voiced his deep concern over the hunger strike and called on the government urgently to address "this serious situation".

Calling on President De Klerk not to short-circuit releases, but to unconditionally free all political prisoners in terms of the Pretoria Minute, a number of local human rights groups emphasised that, in spite of the crisis, the government persisted in its bureaucratic indemnity process for their release.

A hunger strike with a history

DENNIS CRUYWAGEN
Political Staff



HIS counsel argued that he was capable of contributing to a future South Africa in the same manner as statesmen such as Jan Smuts, Louis Botha and B J Vorster

The judge, Mr Justice H Conradie, responded that it was "my own feeling that he is likely to do so"

But on December 11 1987, Umkhonto we Sizwe deputy commander Mxolisi Edward Petane was sentenced to a total of 17 years' imprisonment after being convicted on one count of terrorism, in terms of the Internal Security Act, and two counts of attempted murder

In his heart Mr Petane knew that he would not spend 17 years in jail.

"My target year for my release was 1995 I was sure that all political prisoners would be free by then or the country would have been plunged into civil war"

He was freed on May 11

Freedom, though, did not come easily. It was forced on the wings of a hunger strike which started on Robben Island on May 1, a day after the deadline of April 30 set by the ANC for the release of all political prisoners in terms of the Pretoria Minute.

Today is day 25 of the strike by at least 13 political prisoners, six of them have been hospitalised in Somerset Hospital. Seven more are understood to be in the sick bay at Pollsmoor Prison

The tactic, described as "in-sane, but worth" it this week

FLASHBACK: Mxolisi Petane (centre, slightly obscured) with Nelson Mandela during a visit to the hunger strikers at Somerset Hospital this week

by Mr Rafiq Rohan, who was freed after fasting for 20 days, is not a new one and neither was it the first time that Islanders used it

In fact, the present strike is a continuation of a fast for freedom started by more than 300 Islanders on February 26 last year

Their demands, made in the light of President F W De Klerk's unbanning of organisations including the ANC, Pan Africanist Congress, and South African Communist Party, were that they be freed unconditionally

That strike was suspended after 11 days after a delegation of lawyers, including Mr Dulah Omar, Mr Pius Langa, Ms Kathy Satchwell and Mr Bule-

Did he feel betrayed by the ANC? "No, the regime did not stick to the agreement."

On May 1, a reported 28 prisoners began their deadly gamble on Robben Island with freedom or death through starvation as the stakes

Chris Mofokeng was the first hunger-striker to collapse and be transferred to Somerset Hospital. He has since been joined by five others

Nine days after the strike began, three hunger-strikers were released, and a day afterwards Minister of Correctional Services Mr Kohie Coetsee said six more would be freed

On 14 May, another three Islanders were freed. Mr Thabo Memela was released from Somerset.

A day later, the remaining 28 politicians were transferred to Pollsmoor Prison

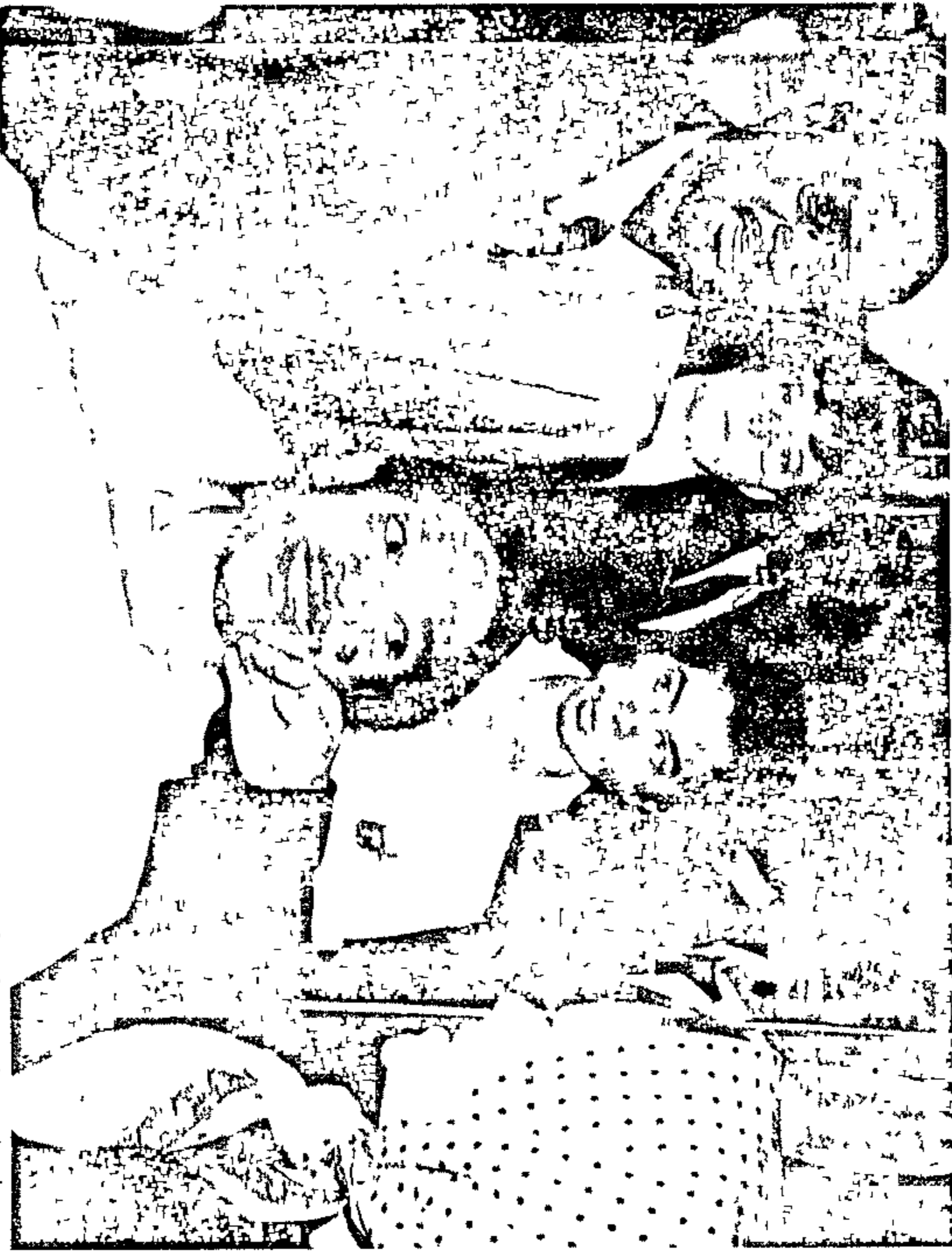
Mr Petane got his freedom but are conditions conducive to his following in the footsteps of a John Vorster or Jan Smuts?

"We have not reached a situation where someone who is not white can become prime minister. The promising situation which developed after February 2 last year has gone

"De Klerk was forced to suspend his programme. He found himself reaching to the situation immediately after he became President there was the Cape Town march. He has never been in control of the situation since then. He may have thought so"

President De Klerk had created a dilemma for himself when he legalised the ANC, he said

"He found that he had to go further than that because he now he had to free people jailed for carrying out the activities of these organisations and exiles had to return. The problem for them was that



FREE: Hunger striker Chris Mofokeng, released in a day of dramatic developments yesterday

people in prison had been stigmatised"

Mr Petane believes that the ANC's decision to suspend its armed struggle also surprised the government.

"The Boers thought that the ANC was incapable of suspend-

ing the armed struggle. The ball was put in their court and they did not play it according to the rules. That's why we were not released by April 30"

He said the present unrest had been orchestrated by the State machinery because the "Boers wanted us to take up

arms to defend our people so that they could reneg on the Pretoria Minute"

The other goal of this strategy was to manipulate the negotiation process and put pressure on the ANC leadership

He warned that these tactics would be counterproductive because the ANC was unlikely to start negotiations if it believed it had been weakened, and even if it did the people would not accept the end result"

It would therefore be in the interest of President De Klerk to stop the violence, he said

Strikers freed ⁽²⁵³⁾

● FROM PAGE 1.

Yesterday seven hunger strikers, including the most seriously ill hunger striker, Chris Mokokeng (24), at Somerset Hospital in the Cape, were released

Mr Mofokeng lost about 16 kg during the hunger strike but did not suffer permanent damage, even though he collapsed and lost consciousness on Tuesday. Doctors took 45 minutes to resuscitate him.

ANC bomber Gordon Christopher Webster, sentenced to an effective 25 years jail in 1988 after being convicted of murder, attempted murder and 12 counts of terrorism, was among those released yesterday

A top-level ANC delegation, led by

the organisation's internal leader Walter Sisulu, yesterday visited the 12 hunger strikers receiving treatment at the Johannesburg Hospital.

There were continued country-wide protests by ANC Women's League members.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu led about 150 people in a lunch-time placard protest at the St. George's Cathedral in Cape Town yesterday.

Doctors and medical experts have warned that the hunger strikers are moving into the third week of a life-threatening fast which could cause irreversible organ damage

Meanwhile the Department of Correctional Services announced that special arrangements were being made at Pollsmoor Prison in Cape Town, for the appointment of a doctor to attend to the medical needs of the hunger strikers on a continuous basis.

More expected to be freed

MORE hunger strikers on a "release-or-die" fast are expected to be released in the next few days following intensified protest action and pressure from churches, ANC leaders and the international community

According to the Human Rights Commission (HRC) there are now 78 political prisoners who have been on hunger strike since May 1 in protest against the Pretoria Minute release deadline

Minister of Justice and Correctional Services Mr Kobie Coetsee has put the number at about 70.

In New York yesterday United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar voiced his deep concern over the hunger strike and called on the government urgently to address "this se-

rious situation"

Calling on President FW de Klerk not to short-circuit releases but to set free all political prisoners unconditionally in terms of the Pretoria Minute, a number of local human rights groups stressed that despite the crisis, the Government persisted in its bureaucratic indemnity process for their release

ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela, visiting hunger-strikers in Somerset Hospital yesterday, confirmed that he had met Justice Minister Coetsee on Thursday in a bid to speed up the releases.

His visit and subsequent telephone conversations with Mr Coetsee came as Archbishop Desmond Tutu saw President

^{Star 25/9/91} PAT DEVEREAUX, SUE OLSWANG, ⁽²⁵³⁾ ABBEY MAKOE and SAPA

de Klerk in Tuynhuys, also on a release bid.

Asked about the drastic drop in the number of hunger strikers, an HRC spokesman said "The hunger strike had been suspended at a number of prisons including Leeu-kop, Maritzburg, Westville, Grootvlei in the Karoo

"There are now 20 prisoners in hospital in a serious condition. The most serious is former Simons-town commander Dieter Gerhardt (58)," said the HRC spokesman. He was convicted of giving sensitive military secrets to his Moscow controllers over nine years ago.

Gerhardt, imprisoned at Pretoria Central, is reported to have a liver problem and be suffering severe dehydration.

● TO PAGE 2.



HUNGER STRIKER FREED ... Senior professional nurse Mrs Ephy-Maria Grootboom helps weak and exhausted ANC hunger striker Mr Chris Mofokeng drink a milk and fruit juice cocktail after his 23-day hunger strike ended yesterday.

Picture OBED ZILWA

FW's ^{CT 25/5/91} credibility ⁽²⁵³⁾ tarnished — Tutu

Staff Reporter

PRESIDENT F W de Klerk's credibility abroad had been tarnished by the insensitive handling of the hunger strike issue, Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town Desmond Tutu said yesterday.

Speaking at a service on the 24th day of the hunger strike — which saw eight more emaciated prisoners granted their freedom — Archbishop Tutu said South Africa's "temperature and volatile situation" would have been lowered if the government had released all political prisoners as agreed.

Two hunger strikers, Mr Attie Phiri and Mr Bafana Thlapane, remain in Somerset Hospital's Barkly Ward and seven others are still in Pollsmoor Prison.

Western Cape ANC publicity secretary Mr Trevor Manuel said the hunger strike would not end until all were granted their indemnity.

The release of hunger strikers, previously in dribs and drabs, was accelerated after ANC deputy president Mr Nelson Mandela met the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Kobie Coetsee, three times in less than 24 hours.

The flurry of releases came soon after the first hunger striker to be hospitalised, Mr Chris Mofokeng, collapsed on Thursday, and a medical

team took about 45 minutes to resuscitate him.

Among those released yesterday were Mr Gordon Webster and Mr Chris Mafokeng, jailed for killing two police informers in the Johannesburg area.

Mr Mafokeng was released "as a result of medical advice which indicated that the prisoner's health was starting to deteriorate irreversibly", said Mr Coetsee.

The others who were released are

- Mr Mafi Mghobozi, 23, of Durban. He was sentenced to 15 years on January, 1989, for an attack on the Esikhaweni police station, his involvement in a bomb blast at Empangeni post office in which people were injured and involvement in a bomb blast at the Sanlam Centre, Durban.

- Mr Patrick Khoza, serving 18 years for terrorism, promoting the cause of the ANC and having common purpose in the murder of a policeman.

- Mr Mandla Maseko, serving 23 years after being convicted of high treason and four counts of planting landmines in the Eastern Transvaal, in which eight people were injured.

- Mr Vusumuzi Khube, Mr Raymond Mphondo and Mr Johannes Hlapo, convicted in the Oscar Mpetha trial for terrorism and murder for stone-throwing attacks on cars. Two people died in the incidents.

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WEBSTER GOES FREE



253 OCT 25/91

HUNGER STRIKER FREED. One of the best-known South African political prisoners, Mr Gordon Webster, was freed yesterday. Mr Webster had been on a hunger strike along with other prisoners.

Picture: STEWART COLMAN

Staff Reporter

GORDON WEBSTER — the ANC operative who was snatched from hospital in an audacious raid by McGoo's bomber Robert McBride — became the seventh hunger striker to be released yesterday.

Observers said yesterday that the government had been reluctant to release Mr Webster as he was a high-profile activist who had been convicted of killing a police colonel with a booby-trapped bomb.

Mr Webster first made headlines in 1986 when, badly wounded and in the intensive care unit of a Maritzburg hospital, he was snatched from under police guard by McBride and his father Derek, who were dressed as doctors.

A visitor was killed and four people, including two policemen, were wounded.

McBride's father was jailed for 12 years for aiding the escape.

Mr Webster, who had been wounded in a shootout with police during his arrest, was hauled out of hospital with two wounds in his back, operation scars and bullets still in his body.

McBride, who was subsequently sentenced to death for the Durban beachfront bombing of Ma-

To page 2

From page 1

McGoo's Bar (in which three people died), smuggled Mr Webster into Botswana in a caravan.

During his 1987 trial, McBride said he had freed Webster because he had "sensitive information" and they were old friends and "comrades in the struggle".

Mr Webster was arrested in September 1987 trying to re-enter South Africa with two others at the Botswana border.

In March 1988 Mr Webster, 27, was sentenced to 25 years for murder with extenuating circumstances, attempted murder, 12 counts of terrorism, receiving illegal military training, possession of arms and explosives and recruiting for the ANC.

The murder charge arose from the death of a police colonel who had gone to investigate a limpet mine explosion at a Durban sub-station. Another bomb went off, killing the man and injuring two more policemen.

Justice Minister Mr Kobie Coetsee said Mr Webster's release had been recommended because it "would coincide and give effect to the objectives of the Indemnity Act".

More prisoners freed

Sunday Times Reporter
SIX more political prisoners, including two serving life sentences for high treason, were released from Robben Island yesterday.

Naphtali Manana, 34, and 30-year-old Petros Tshepo Mashigo, were given life sentences after being convicted of taking

part in an attack on the Soekmekaar police station in Pietersburg. (253)

The others were Mxolisi Petane of Cape Town, serving 17 years, Musa Nkaoto of Johannesburg, Joseph Makhura, convicted of two bomb blasts, and Johannes Mahlangu, 32, of Bronkhorstspuit, serving 18 years.

Freed hunger striker tells of 20 days in hell

By Kurt Swart

FREED hunger striker Rafiq Rohan this week gave a graphic account of the agony of surviving for 20 days with only water and glucose for nourishment.

Mr Rohan, 37, a journalist and member of the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, was released from prison this week. He had joined other ANC prisoners in a "release-or-death" war of nerves against the government, after the expiry of the April 30 deadline for the release of political prisoners.

"The day after the deadline we handed a memorandum to the authorities giving details and reasons for our strike," he said. Mr Rohan said thoughts of death had constantly haunted the strikers, who feared going to sleep at night.

"You are constantly drowsy, yet you resist falling asleep be-

cause you are scared you'll never wake up again," he said.

The first three days were the most difficult, said Mr Rohan, as the hunger strikers' bodies adjusted to the lack of food.

"Those first days were, in many ways, worse than anything that was to follow. The rightwingers who went on hunger strike didn't last more than three days, but the government underestimated our discipline and commitment."

The hunger strikers not only fought off severe hunger pangs, nausea and dizziness, but were engaged in a battle of wits with their jailers.

"We had had quite a good rapport with the prison staff to the extent that even senior officers were very sympathetic towards

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us," he said. "But their attitudes changed after the strike began and they began to enforce regulations to the hilt."

Chris Mofokeng, who was freed late this week, was bedridden by the fifth day, and collapsed on the sixth. He was transferred to Somerset Hospital on the mainland.

"I started feeling very weary and my ulcers, caused by anxiety over whether I would be released by April 30, really started playing up."

"I battled against anxiety attacks. I've never had a nervous breakdown, but on the ninth day, I think I came close to it."

"My whole body was shaking and shivering, my mind felt as if it was stretched to the limit. I thought it would snap."

Hunger pangs came and went.

SIX TIMES

Sometimes the strikers, desperate for food, would talk to each other about various dishes.

"We would sit down and talk about food I yearned for: a Durban bunny chow."

"But after a while even looking at pictures of food made us nauseous."

After 12 days without food, traces of blood were found in Mr Rohan's urine and prison medical staff insisted he go to hospital.

"I had severe stomach cramps, and difficulty in walking and balancing. My sense of direction was out of control."

"I couldn't even read. After four or five pages I could no longer concentrate. I'd reached a point where I did not care about any damage being caused to me."

By the 15th day of the strike,

26157911

Mr Rohan joined prisoners Chris Mofokeng, Peter Khube, Atty Philo, Gordon Webster and Thabo Memela at Somerset hospital.

Mr Rohan claimed the hunger strikers had been shackled to their beds and that guards had had out a banquet in front of them which they ate "with relish."

Prison authorities have denied these claims.

"We deteriorated very rapidly in hospital. It was a very bleak period. Our only nourishment was knowing that people outside were campaigning for our release," said Mr Rohan.

"All conversation dried up. We had no energy to think. We were just wasting away."

On Monday, a prison major informed Mr Rohan he had been unconditionally released.

26157911

"At that point I broke down, crying uncontrollably. Nurses had to console me. I could not look at the others."

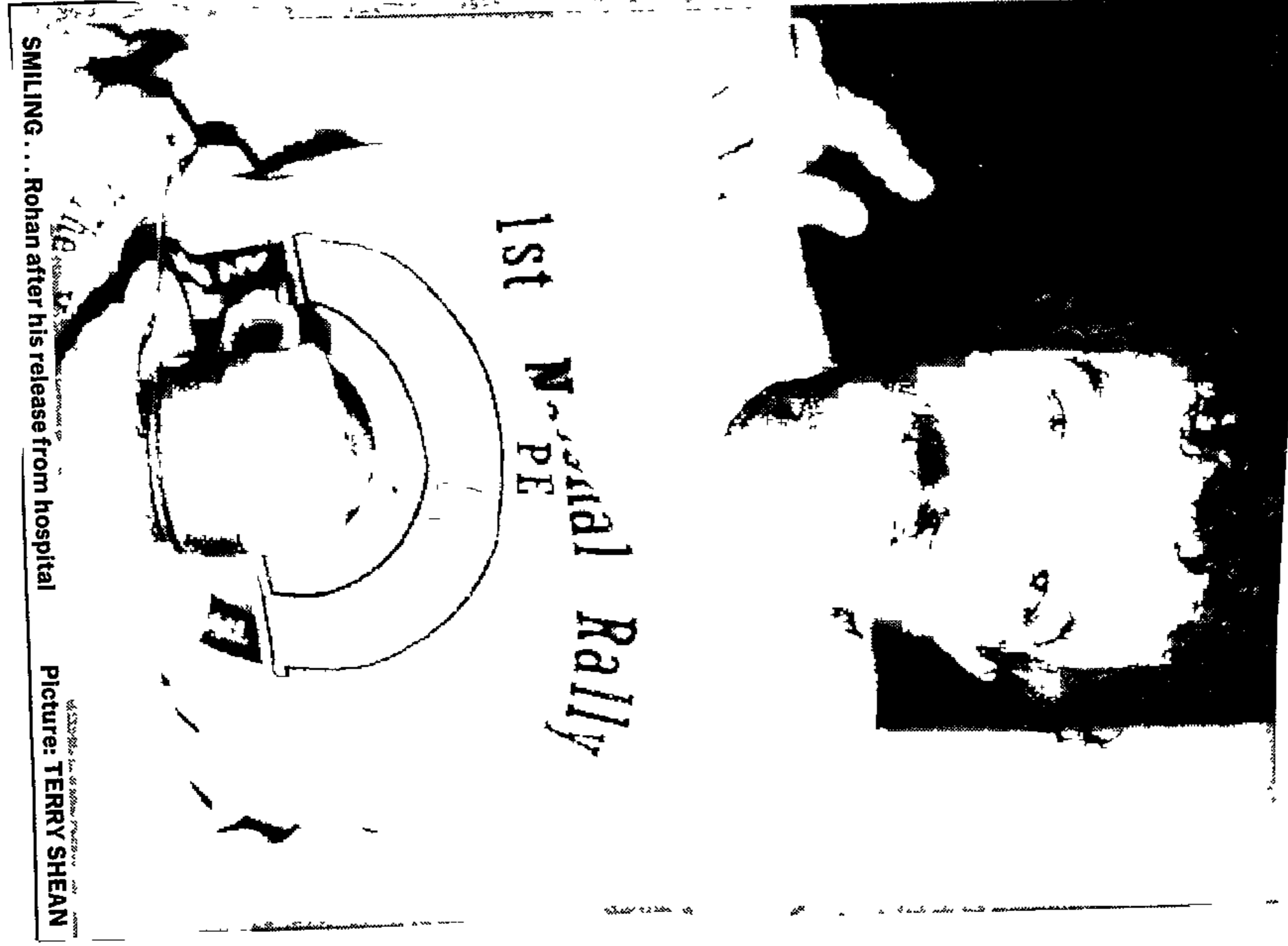
"Gordon Webster" was crying; everyone had tears in their eyes. I couldn't see anything. We just hugged each other and I left."

Mr Rohan, a former news editor at Post Natal, now intends to rebuild his career as a journalist.

"I want to start work as soon as possible. I want to get back into mainstream journalism."

"My main reason for becoming a journalist was to highlight the injustices of apartheid. But I reached a point where writing was just not enough — that's what drove me to become a member of Umkhonto we Sizwe."

Mr Rohan was sentenced last year to 15 years' imprisonment on three counts of sabotage.



1st National Rally

SMILING... Rohan after his release from hospital

Picture: TERRY SHEAN

Release of 9 ANC prisoners imminent

Political Staff

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CAPE TOWN — The release of nine ANC political prisoners appeared imminent yesterday as convicts discussed calling off their hunger strike of more than three weeks. (10am 27/1/79)

The fate of nine PAC members, who have refused to apply for release, and the two black consciousness movement (BCM) members is less clear.

However, one of the BCM members, a Mr Khakaza, who was exempted from the hunger strike for old age reasons, has been in prison since 1978 and his release is likely soon.

Although reports that the political prisoners might call off their hunger strike still had to be confirmed, nine of the ex-Robben Islanders — seven ANC, one PAC and one BCM — were still in jail yesterday.

The two ANC hunger strikers in Somerset Hospital, Attie Phiri and Bafana Thlapane, were jailed for the same offence as Chris Mofokeng, who was released on Friday, increasing the prospects of their early release.

The three were convicted in 1988 of the murder of two police informers and were given 20 to 28-year sentences.

The only PAC member participating in the hunger strike is Litha Mlahleki, who was given a 42-year sentence in November 1978.

The BCM member on hunger strike, Daniel Nkopodi, was given a 10-year sentence in October 1988.

Two ANC members have not been participating in the hunger strike.

One, Moyisile Tyutyu, 56, who was convicted of treason and terrorism for being involved in bomb attacks on the Swartkops

□ To Page 2

Prisoners

(10am 27/1/79)

railway line and offices in the Port Elizabeth area, was exempted for medical reasons.

The other accused in his case, Rufus Nzo, has already been released.

Another ANC member, Johnson O'Lubisi, is being given psychological treatment in hospital.

He and his co-accused, Naphtali Manana and Petros Mashigo, were given the death sentence in 1980 and spent two years on death row after which their sentences were commuted to life.

They were convicted of high treason for their participation in ANC guerilla group and an attack on Soetmekaar police station

near Pietersburg

Manana and Mashigo, who are being held in Pollsmoor Prison, are among the seven ex-Robben Island ANC prisoners still on hunger strike at the weekend.

While official estimates of the hunger strikes put the figure at less than 70, the Human Rights Commission has estimated that more than 110 are on the hunger strike.

Apart from the nine ex-Robben Islanders, the HRC said 10 were in Johannesburg Hospital, others at Baragwanath Hospital, 16 at Bethal, seven at Barberton, eight at Modder Bee Prison and one in Bophuthatswana.

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□ From Page 1

(253)

Strikers are eating again, says Justice Department

Argus 2/15/91
The Argus Correspondents

JOHANNESBURG — A "significant number" of the 58 prisoners who had been on a hunger strike for more than three weeks began taking food yesterday, a Justice Department spokesman said today.

The suspension of their fast came after the release of eight political prisoners on Friday and at the weekend.

The releases and the suspension of the fast followed meetings last week involving ANC

deputy president Mr Nelson Mandela, Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, President De Klerk and the Minister of Justice Mr Kobie Coetsee.

A reliable source today indicated a "formula" may have been found to end the hunger strike and release the strikers.

In the past, hunger strikes have been resolved by an agreement to suspend the strike, after which the prisoners would be released, the source said.

Hunger strikers begin eating

By Carina le Grange
and Al-Ameen Kafaar

A significant number of the 58 prisoners who had been on a hunger strike for more than three weeks began taking food yesterday, a Justice Department spokesman announced today.

The suspension of their fast came after the release of eight political prisoners

on Friday and at the weekend.

The releases and the suspension of the fast followed meetings last week involving ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, State President F W de Klerk and the Minister of Justice, Kobie Coetsee.

Reliable sources today indicated a "formula" may have been found to end the

hunger strike and release the strikers, defusing the crisis.

In the past hunger strikes have been resolved by an agreement to suspend the strike, after which the prisoners would be released, the source said.

Human Rights lawyer Willie Hofmeyr, who has represented the hunger strikers, said those most seriously ill were those who were released on Friday.

ANC may end prison fast

By GUY OLIVER

A MOVE to suspend the nationwide ANC hunger strike could be on the cards — especially now that high-profile Umkhonto we Sizwe member Mr Gordon Webster has been released.

Mr Willie Hofmeyr, ANC lawyer, said last night that the freeing of nine hunger strikers last week had been "very significant" and indicated "movement from the government to settle the issue".

The release of Mr Webster — jailed for killing a police colonel with a booby-trapped bomb — had been especially significant, he said.

He knew there was "some discussion now going on" between ANC officials and hunger strikers about suspending the fast.

Decision

The subject "might" also have been raised by ANC deputy president Mr Nelson Mandela during his visit to the hunger strikers in Somerset Hospital on Friday, Mr Hofmeyr said.

However, the final decision was in the hands of the strikers.

An estimated 100 prisoners were still refusing food.

The prisoners' hunger strike in support of their demand to be released has put South Africa back in the international spotlight, generating support for the ANC and tarnishing President F W de Klerk's reformist image.

Those freed are to have their indemnities reviewed in mid-June, but this time scale "is unacceptable" to the ANC, Mr Hofmeyr says.

10am 28/5/91

Union seeks talks on hunger strikers

(253) THEO RAWANA

THE National Union of Metalworkers of SA (Numsa) has requested an urgent meeting with Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee to discuss hunger strikers.

Numsa's request came as the Human Rights Commission (HRC) countered weekend speculation that the hunger strike was being suspended because of the release of eight political prisoners.

The HRC said yesterday 73 prisoners — nine of them awaiting trial — were on hunger strike. The number of hunger strikers had dropped as some had been released and others had suspended their action.

Numsa general secretary Moses Mayekiso said yesterday his union had faxed a request to Coetsee for a meeting tomorrow "to advise him of our concern over our members' failing health and the failure of the state to release them following their applications for indemnity".

A statement said five unionists — Richard Ngobeni, Jeffrey Mtshali, Malvert Ngubane, Malan Khumalo and Samuel Malepo — and non-member Joseph Bhengu had been on hunger strike for 22 days.

The men had been in custody since April last year after a strike at Haggie Rand, and were in hospital because of ill-health, Numsa said.

A Justice Department spokesman would not say whether or not Coetsee had received Numsa's request.

A Correctional Services Department spokesman refused to give updated figures on the number of prisoners on hunger strike.

1695

Hans Snyd
TUESDAY, 28 MAY 1991

1696

existing buildings are also to be included in the upgrading programme on high priority. The services required at Greyville at this stage must be viewed objectively against the services that may be required more urgently at schools elsewhere in the country.

- (a) and (b) fall away
- (2) Falls away

Housing Development Board: houses at discount rate

*6 Mr D K PADIACHEY asked the Minister of Housing

- (1) Whether he will consider letting houses owned by the Housing Development Board to the present tenants at a discount rate, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details,
- (2) whether he will consider selling the South Fork flats in Lenasia Extension 9 to the tenants under sectional title, if not, why not, if so, what are the details in this regard?

The MINISTER OF HOUSING

D169E

- (1) Yes Circular Minute No 17 of 1983 as amended by Circular No 3 of 1987 apply to the sale of houses within the Sales Campaign and it has also discounted the selling prices of houses subsequently built
- (2) Yes The Housing Development Board approved that a consultant be appointed by the Department to undertake an investigation in order to determine the feasibility of selling these flats

1697

Hans Snyd WEDNESDAY, 29 MAY 1991

1698

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs

Prohibited organisations: prisoners released

358 Mr L F STOFBERG asked the Minister of Correctional Services †

- (a) How many members of the ANC, the SACP and other previously prohibited organisations who were detained in prisons in South Africa were released in the 1990 calendar year,
- (b)(i) how many such prisoners are still being detained and (ii) in respect of what date is this information furnished and (c) what are the names of the other previously prohibited organisations?

B937E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

- (a) The political alliance of prisoners does not form part of the information required from a prisoner on his admission and consequently the information as requested by the hon member is not available. However, I would like to confirm that 1 013 sentenced security, security related and unrest related prisoners were released between 2 February 1990 and 27 May 1991. These releases included persons on various sides of the political spectrum. Persons and/or organisations who had not committed themselves to peaceful solutions and development, did not enjoy the benefit of an earlier release in terms thereof

- (b) I refer the hon member to my written reply in the House of Assembly to question number 302 on 10 May 1991 (see col 1401)
- (c) The hon member is referred to the contents of Government Gazette 12287 dated 3 February 1990 (Government notices R21 and R229)

Black residential areas: total amounts owing
360 Mr L F STOFBERG asked the Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing †

- What total amounts were owing by residents of Black residential areas in (a) the Transvaal, (b) the Orange Free State, (c) Natal and (d) the Cape Province in respect of (i) electricity, (ii) rentals and (iii) service charges as at 31 December 1990?

B957E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL HOUSING

- (a) Transvaal
 - (i), (ii), (iii) R996 572 389
- Unfortunately, it is not possible to furnish the outstanding amount in the breakdown required
- (b) Orange Free State
 - (i) R11 044 603
 - (ii) Not separately available. Included in service charges
 - (iii) R57 878 721
- (c) Natal
 - (i) R267 512
 - (ii) R969 848
 - (iii) R2 400 021
- (d) Cape Province
 - (i) R11 351 909
 - (ii) R29 201 381
 - (iii) R68 556 423

SADF base Vhembe: visit

367 Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Defence

- (1) Whether, during the period 28 to 30 July 1988, the South African Defence Force (SADF) transported to and accommodated at the SADF base Vhembe near Messina a number of young guests, including a certain person (particulars of whom have been furnished to the SADF

Scores still fasting, says HRC

Star 28/5/91

Staff Reporters and Sapa

253

At least 73 political prisoners were still on hunger strike countrywide yesterday, according to the Human Rights Commission (HRC)

However, the Department of Correctional Services said a significant number of the hunger strikers had started to eat

The HRC agreed there had been a drop in the number of hunger strikers, as some had been released and others had suspended their strike. Speculation that the 27-day hunger strike as a whole had been suspended was untrue, the HRC said

Although some Leuwkop prisoners had reportedly suspended their fast, five had commenced their hunger strike on Saturday, said HRC spokesman Sally Jacques

Drips

Two hunger strikers at Pretoria's Baviaanspoort prison had suspended their strike and eight out of 16 Robben Island hunger strikers, including Gordon Webster, had been released on Friday, said the HRC

Pretoria hunger striker Steven Rampoepe Maboja collapsed at the weekend, according to reports received by the HRC yesterday

Maboja, as well as fellow hunger strikers Dieter Gerhardt, Mandla Vilakasi and George Mhapi, were not on Death Row as earlier believed, but are being held at Pretoria's Maximum Security Prison, said the HRC

Three Durban, Westville, prisoners were admitted to St Aiden's Hospital and were refusing to be put on drips

Twelve Bethal political prisoners were on drips after being taken to hospital

Nine Diepkloof and seven Barberton hunger strikers were still in hospital. The Barberton prisoners were reportedly very weak and some were coughing blood, said the HRC

A Pietersburg awaiting-trial prisoner, Jacob Raphole, had been on hunger strike for up to 11 days

Sources at the Johannesburg Hospital said last night that three strikers had been put on drips

The source said the condition of the strikers had deteriorated rapidly and they were feeling weak and faint

The source said one striker, Muzi Nyathi, had been released on Friday and would be allowed to leave the hospital and go home today

A lawyer for the two awaiting-trial political prisoners being treated at Baragwanath Hospital said yesterday that the strikers were taking only water and were in danger of suffering permanent renal failure

Metsing Molefe and Thabiso Gerald Tekane (25), both of Soweto, who were arrested in 1989, have lost between 10 and 12 kg in weight and are well into the danger zone. Both had had memory lapses and their kidneys could "pack up" any time

The lawyers said they had applied to the Government for indemnity and were still awaiting replies

Mr Molefe and Mr Tekane are facing charges including attempted murder and possession of weapons and ammunition. They are alleged to have escaped from custody last year

In Schweizer-Reneke, 15 ANC supporters were arrested yesterday in the courtyard of the magistrate's court where they were picketing in solidarity with six hunger strikers from the town

The six hunger strikers are awaiting-trial prisoners held in Klerksdorp

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is queries

Strydom may be released

star 28/5/91
The State President's advisory committee for the release of political prisoners is to consider releasing Barend Strydom

Wim Cornelius, his lawyer, said he had received a fax from a judge on the advisory committee, asking for detailed motivations so that the committee could consider Strydom's release as a political prisoner.

His eight death sentences were recently reduced to life imprisonment

Mr Cornelius said Strydom had submitted political reasons when applying for the first amnesty

"The Government, by reducing the death sentences to life imprisonment, has therefore al-

best results were found
"The region where

ready acknowledged Strydom's status as a political prisoner, and I am very optimistic that his release will be favourably considered," Mr Cornelius said

His mother Daphne said the entire family believed his application to the State President's advisory committee would be successful Her son had also been "very optimistic" when she visited him in prison

Strydom, a former policeman, has been in Pretoria Central Prison for the past two years He was found guilty on eight counts of murder after he randomly shot at black passers-by at Strydom Square in Pretoria and at a squatter camp — Sapa



6 accused in hospital after refusing food

By Shareen Singh

Six men who were arrested in April last year after a strike at Haggie Rand, were admitted to hospital last week after a 22-day hunger strike, their union said yesterday

The men, five of whom were members of the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (Numsa), were arrested on charges of murder, attempted murder, arson and unlawful possession of arms and ammunition

Numsa believes the cases of these workers fall within the Government's indemnity requirements for political detainees and has instructed its attorneys to apply for indemnity for Richard Ngobeni, Jeffrey Mtshali, Malvert Ngubane, Malan Khumalo, Joseph Bhengu and Samuel Malepo

The union is deeply concerned about the workers' health

'Wit Wolf' to be released?

CT-2815/91

JOHANNESBURG. —

The President's advisory committee for the release of political prisoners has asked lawyers for motivations for the release of mass murderer Barend "Wit Wolf" Strydom.

(252)

Strydom's eight death sentences were recently reduced to life imprisonment in an amnesty granted by President F.W. de Klerk.

(253)

Strydom submitted political reasons when applying for the amnesty — Sapa.

Mabua's lawyers may take action

253

LAWYERS for hunger striker Steven Mabua are considering court action after he reportedly collapsed in his cell at Pretoria Maximum Security Prison at the weekend.

Mabua's attorney said his client's family had visited the prison at the weekend and were distressed to find there were no indications that he (Mabua) was to be transferred to hospital despite his collapse.

If appeals to Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee failed to secure satisfactory changes to the medical treatment of hunger strikers at the Pretoria prison, the attorney said,

Sowetan 28/5/79

**SOWETAN
Correspondent**

action would be taken in the Supreme Court.

Mabua is one of seven political prisoners in Johannesburg and Pretoria who have gone without food for 25 days in a bid to secure their release under indemnity agreements.

Protest

Another six political prisoners from Johannesburg's Diepkloof Prison have been on a hunger strike for 21 days.

All the Diepkloof prisoners have been ad-

mitted to the Johannesburg Hospital while none of the Pretoria group has been transferred to hospital.

At least another nine hunger strikers are in the Baragwanath and Barberton hospitals.

The Johannesburg group, consisting of three members of Umkhonto we Sizwe and six awaiting trial members of the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa, are resolute that they will starve until they are freed.

Coetsee announced at the weekend that a number of 58 hunger strikers had abandoned their protest by Sunday.

According to information gathered by the Human Rights Commission, on Friday there were still at least 71 political prisoners on hunger strike.

Hunger strike for 73 still on

AT least 73 political prisoners were still on hunger strike throughout the country yesterday, according to the Human Rights Commission, which is monitoring the release and condition of the political prisoners.

However, the Department of Correctional Services said a significant number of the hunger strikers had started to eat.

The HRC agreed there had been a drop in the number of hunger strikers, as some had been released while others had suspended their strike for various reasons.

Speculation that the 27-day hunger strike as a whole had been suspended were however untrue, the HRC added.

While some Leeuwkop prisoners had reportedly suspended their fast, five had commenced their hunger strike on Saturday, said HRC spokesman, Sally Jacques. She said it was not certain whether these were the same prisoners who had earlier reportedly stopped the strike.

Two hunger strikers at Pretoria's Baviaanspoort Prison had suspended their strike and eight out of 16 Robben Island hunger strikers, including Gordon Webster, had been released on Friday, according to the HRC.

The condition of those still fasting was deteriorating. Many had been put in hospital and some were in a very weak condition, said the HRC.

Three Durban, Westville, prisoners were admitted to the St Alden's hospital and were refusing to be put on drips.

Twelve Bethal political prisoners were on drips after being hospitalised.

Nine Diepkloof and seven Barberton hunger strikers were still in hospital. The Barberton prisoners were reportedly very weak and some were coughing blood, said the HRC.

An awaiting Pietersburg trialist, Jacob Raphole, had been on hunger strike for up to 11 days, it added.

Sources at the Johannesburg General hospital said three strikers had been put on drips.

The source said the condition of the strikers had deteriorated rapidly and they were feeling weak and faint.

The source said one striker, Muzi Nyathi was released on Friday and was allowed to leave the hospital and go home yesterday.

A lawyer for the two awaiting-trial political prisoners being treated at Baragwanath Hospital said yesterday the strikers were only taking water and were in danger of suffering permanent renal failure.

Move to release Strydom

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Sowetan
29/5/91



HOPEFUL SMILES: Mr Nick Strydom and his wife, Daphne, the parents of mass murderer Barend "Wit Wolf" Strydom.

All the liberation movements object to any plan to release Barend Strydom. Telephone Radio Metro DJ Tim Modise between 4.30 and 5pm today and tell him what YOU think. The hotline number is 714-8063. Listen to the *Sowetan*/Radio Metro Talkback programme on mediumwave 576KHz.

By MOKGADI PELA
and Sapa

BLACK political organisations yesterday condemned a move to have mass murderer Barend "Wit Wolf" Strydom classified as a political prisoner.

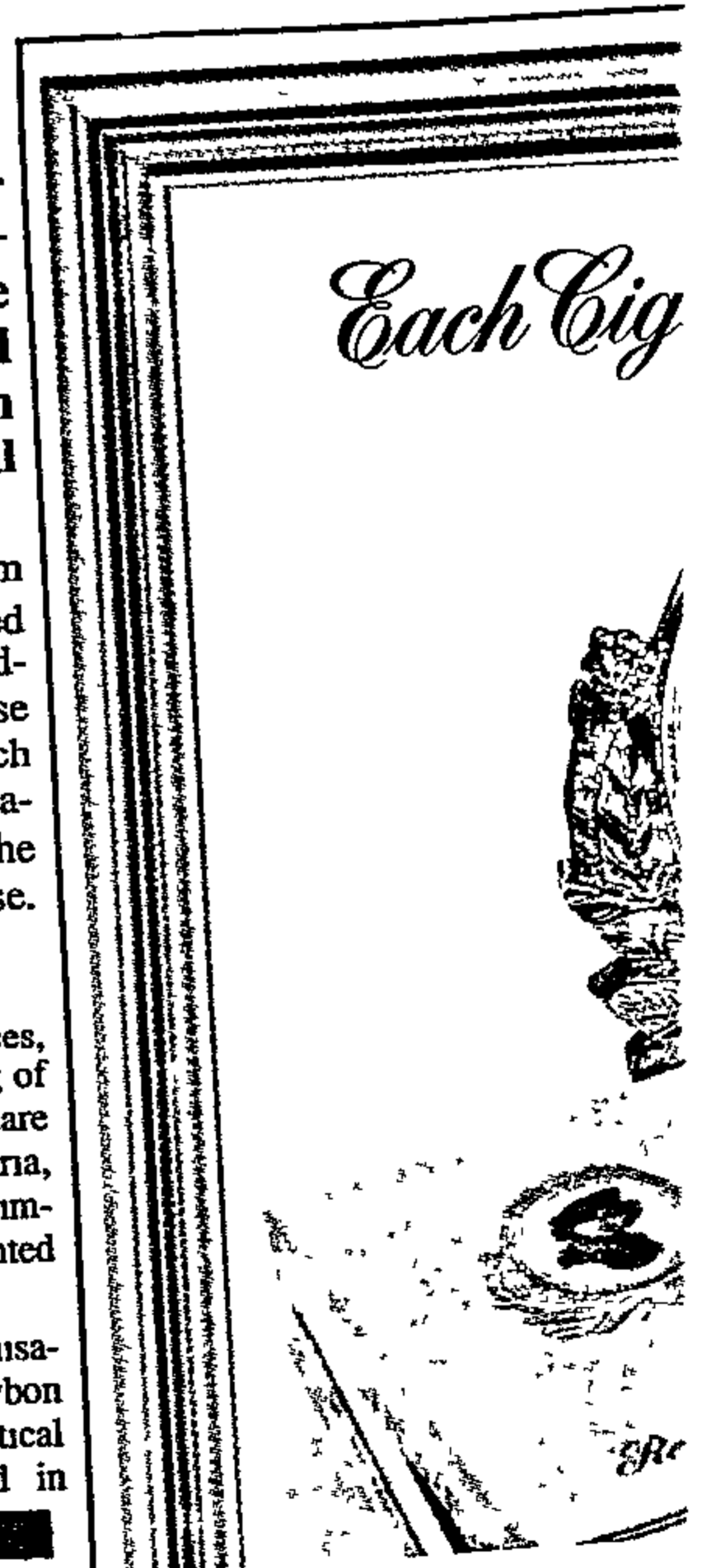
His lawyer, Mr Wim Cornelius, said he had received a fax from a judge on the advisory committee for the release of political prisoners which asked about Strydom's motivations for his acts so that the group could consider his release.

Shooting

Strydom's eight death sentences, imposed for his random shooting of black passersby at Strydom Square and a squatter camp in Pretoria, were recently commuted to life imprisonment in an amnesty granted by President FW de Klerk.

The Azanian Peoples Organisation projects co-ordinator Mr Lybon Mabasa said: "We thought political prisoners would be explained in

• To Page 2



P.T.O.

Outcry over Strydom

Sowetan 29/5/91

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From Page 1

terms of those who have been fighting for the dismantlement of apartheid

"Barend Strydom is a perpetrator of apartheid, a system which has been described by the church as diabolical.

"Classifying him as a political prisoner would be like elevating Nazis to the status of freedom fighters"

- ANC regional execu-

tive Mr Patrick Lekota said: "In our judgment the definition of a political prisoner does not include a character such as him and therefore the ANC does not endorse his release.

"However, the Government is free to release whomever it chooses. In terms of the agreement arising out of the Groote Schuur Minute the Government should

have released all ANC members who are proven political prisoners. Many have had to resort to hunger strikes to secure their release"

PAC assistant secretary general Mr Carter Seleke said: "It is sad to find a murderer like Strydom who was involved in criminal activities being considered in some quarters as a political prisoner"

Bill proposes sweeping changes to sentencing

Biday

29/5/91

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Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — Far-reaching changes to the system of sentencing in SA, including correctional supervision as an alternative to prison sentences, have been proposed in a new Bill, tabled in Parliament yesterday

In terms of the Correctional Services and Supervision Matters Amendment Bill, the courts will be entitled to impose sentences of probation or supervision under government-appointed officers or send offenders to rehabilitation centres

Together with the increasing use of community service sentences, the new measure could drastically reduce overcrowding of SA prisons and place far greater emphasis on rehabilitation

The Bill also proposes greater community involvement in the correctional system through the establishment of correctional boards

with representatives from both the local community and the Correctional Services Department, institutional committees with release powers and a national advisory board

An attorney-general or a prosecutor will now be empowered before judgment in a criminal case to reconsider and suspend the proceeding so that the accused can, with his concurrence, be placed under correctional supervision

Courts will be able to impose correctional supervision or imprisonment.

An accused who is released on bail could be placed under the supervision of a probation officer or a correctional official

Instead of being released on bail or being kept in custody, a juvenile could be placed under the supervision

of a correctional official

The Bill also gives the Justice Minister the power to make regulations for pilot projects to launch correctional supervision as an alternative to prosecuting

In a related measure, the Probation Services Bill was tabled by National Health Minister Dr Rina Venter yesterday

This Bill is to make provision for programmes for the treatment of criminals and the victims of crime, the rendering of assistance to families of people in custody and the performance of community service

It also provides for the establishment of information classes regarding the causes and consequences of criminal tendencies

The Bill also makes provision for the establishment of pre-sentence evaluation committees to advise probation officers

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Community sentences mooted for offenders

Political Staff

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and create a more affordable
penal system

Cutting the chronic over-population of prisons and boosting efforts to rehabilitate prisoners through the wider use of community sentencing are among the goals of new legislation tabled in Parliament yesterday

The Correctional Services and Supervision Matters Amendment Bill provides for the wider use of what it calls "correctional supervision", which a recent White Paper described as the most logical option from the point of view of cost and rehabilitation.

It provides for the "correction" of offenders outside prisons, but under supervision

Ultimately, the Government argues, the measure will help to reduce the prison population

Among the Bill's provisions

● An attorney-general or prosecutor has the power before judgment in a criminal case to reconsider the case and suspend proceedings so that the accused, on certain conditions, can be referred for correctional supervision.

● A court can impose correctional supervision and imprisonment as penalties, which can be converted by the Commissioner of Correctional Services into correctional supervision, under certain conditions

The new system, based on research into penal systems overseas, is likely to be introduced at one or two of the larger centres as pilot projects, if the legislation is approved

CUTTING the chronic and costly overpopulation of prisons and boosting efforts to rehabilitate prisoners through the wider use of community sentencing are among the goals of new legislation tabled in Parliament.

The Correctional Services and Supervision Matters Amendment Bill provides for the wider use of what it calls "correctional supervision" which

New deal for SA prisoners

Sowetan 29/5/91

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Political Staff

a recent White Paper described as the most logical option from the point of view of cost and reha-

bitation. It provides for the "correction" of offenders outside prisons, but under careful supervision. Ultimately, the Gov-

ernment argues, the measure will help to reduce the prison population and to create a more affordable penal system in South Africa.

Among the provisions of the Bill are that: * An attorney-general or prosecutor has the power before judgment in a criminal case to recon-

sider the case and proceedings so that they accused on certain conditions can be referred for correctional supervision; and

* A court can impose correctional supervision and imprisonment as penalties, which can be converted by the Commissioner of Correctional Services into correctional supervision, under certain conditions.

The new system is likely to be introduced at larger centres as pilot projects

New bill could curb prison overcrowding

(253) ET 29/5/91

By BARRY STREEK

FAR-REACHING changes to the system of sentencing, including correctional supervision as an alternative to prison sentences, have been proposed in a new bill tabled in Parliament yesterday.

In terms of the Correctional Services and Supervision Matters Amendment Bill, the courts will be entitled to impose sentences of probation, supervision under government-appointed officers or send offenders to rehabilitation centres

Together with the increasing use of community service sentences, the new measure could drastically reduce overcrowding in prisons and place far greater emphasis on rehabilitation

The bill also proposes greater community involvement in the correctional system through the establishment of correctional boards with representatives of the local

community and the Department of Correctional Services, institutional committees with release powers and a national advisory board

A memorandum attached to the bill said the mission of the Department of Correctional Services had been broadened

Its mission now was "to promote community order and security by exercising control over, detention of and dealing with prisoners and persons under correctional supervision in a less restrictive and most cost-effective manner"

The memorandum said alternative forms of punishment to the usual penalties such as imprisonment, fines and suspended sentences, had until now been used on a small scale in South Africa but the community had not been involved

Courts will be able impose correctional supervision or imprisonment which can be converted to correctional supervision

An accused on bail could be placed un-

der the supervision of a probation officer or a correctional official

A juvenile in custody, instead of being released on bail or being kept in custody, could be placed under supervision

The bill also gives the Minister of Justice the power to make regulations for pilot projects for launching correctional supervision as an alternative to prosecution or sentencing

In a related measure, the Probation Services Bill, which was also tabled yesterday by Minister of National Health Dr Rina Venter, makes provision for programmes for the treatment of criminals and the victims of crime, the rendering of assistance to families of people in custody and the performance of community service

It also provides for the establishment of information classes regarding the causes and consequences of criminal tendencies and pre-sentence evaluation committees to advise probation officers

Parliament and

Jails: Red Cross, govt to meet

JOHANNESBURG — A delegation from the International Committee of the Red Cross is to meet the Minister of Justice next week to convey recommendations on how to bring South Africa's prisons more in line with international standards.

16/5/91
The head of the ICRC delegation, Mr Toni Pfanner, told a press conference yesterday that the meeting was a result of visits by the ICRC to prisons in the country in the past two months.

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No details of the ICRC's findings were made available, as Mr Pfanner said this would be contrary to his organisation's policy and its agreement with the government — Sapa

Prison (253) 'in bid to end fast' 30/5/91

By ALI MPHAKI

TWO hunger strikers at Potchefstroom Prison told Sowetan this week that senior prison officials held braais in offices next to their cells to tempt them to break their fast.

The two, Jabulani Mbatha (22) and Vusi Mhlekwa (22), said the enticing aroma of bar-

● To Page 2

Strikers (253) 'enticed to eat'

From Page 1

becued meat usually whiffed into their cells, making the temptation to eat very strong

The Department of Prisons and Correctional Services has, however, denied the allegation.

"Our next meal will be in heaven or at home," the men said.

Both complained of stomach cramps, dizziness, fatigue and incessant headaches.

The men, both of Emnden, Soweto, are the only political prisoners held in the prison.

Mbatha was jailed for 14 years last year for attempted murder, sabotage and illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition.

Mhlekwa was sentenced to five years for armed robbery.

Prison Services spokesman Colonel DJ Immelman said "It is the policy of the Department of Correctional Services not to comment on hunger strikes by individuals or group of persons or to issue bulletins on the physical condition of individuals.

"It can, however, be mentioned that the said prisoners' cases have both been presented to the consultative body of judges.

"Prisoners who indicate that they are on a hunger strike are treated strictly in accordance with the prevailing international standards as embodied in the Tokyo Declaration.

"This entails, among other things, that they are warned about the adverse effects that they could have on their health, are seen regularly by medical doctors or nursing staff, prescribed tests are regularly done except when the prisoner refused such tests to be done on them etc

"Proper records of the situation concerning each such prisoner are done strictly on the instruction of the doctor who decides when prisoners should be admitted to hospital.

"The allegations that prison officers held braais next to the cells in order to tempt them to break their fasts is not true," Moolman added.

Tough line on hunger strikes

Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — Government took a tough line on prisoners on hunger strike last night and said it could not be expected to consider their release while they were deliberately endangering their lives and health.

81 Day 30/5/91
"It is absolutely unwarranted and irresponsible of prisoners to place their lives and health in jeopardy while their action as such cannot have any influence on the ultimate outcome of their applications for release," said Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee in a statement. "It is even more absurd for a prisoner to embark on a hunger strike, claiming release, when he has not even completed an application form."

He released details of the convictions of 45 hunger strikers, who were not named. These indicated that most of the hunger

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strikers were convicted of murder and attempted murder and other offences, while three awaiting trial prisoners faced kidnapping and attempted murder charges.

His list of hunger strikers is incomplete, however, as people like former Commodore Dieter Gerhardt, convicted of high treason for spying for the Soviet Union, are not included.

Coetsee said 5 564 applications had been made by prisoners for release, but 4 444 of those were received only after April 30, the ANC's deadline for the release of political prisoners.

"It has never been the understanding with any organisation that anyone who

□ To Page 2

Hunger strike

81 Day 30/5/91
simply claims to be a political prisoner should be released," he said.

This attitude, which was being propagated by several spokesmen, had already led to absurdities.

"Thus, for instance, people who have been convicted of bestiality and rape have claimed political status and demanded summary release."

A representative sample of the applications received before and after April 30 indicated that at least 90% clearly fell outside the guidelines for defining political offences.

Up to yesterday, 1 013 security and security or unrest related prisoners had been freed, including 475 who had applied for release.

A further 189 applications had been re-

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ferred to the consulting bodies of judges for advice, 916 applications were refused because they clearly did not fall within the guidelines for defining political offences, 363 were refused but referred to the consulting bodies, 59 were duplicate applications, and 19 applications were by prisoners who committed their crimes after the October 8 cut-off date.

Sapa reports that the Human Rights Commission claimed yesterday that the number of hunger-striking political prisoners has risen to 104, at least 45 of whom started fasting last week.

Unofficial sources at the Johannesburg Hospital said nine hunger strikers, who entered the 29th day of their hunger strike at the hospital, were very weak, but determined to continue.

□ From Page 1

Uppington 11 leave prison

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From Page 1

Jan Basson, who found no extenuating circumstances in the killing of Constable Lucas Sethwala at Paballelo township, Uppington, in November 1985.

Their applications for leave to appeal were refused in the Kimberley Supreme Court in 1989, but changes last year to the law on capital punishment made the right of appeal automatic for people sentenced to death.

Mr Justice Grosskopf, with the concurrence of Mr Justice Smalberger and Mr Justice Nienaber, yesterday gave judgment in the appeals of the 25 who had leave to appeal.

Nonpondowana, who was imprisoned for eight years for attempted murder, did not have leave to

appeal.

Sethwala was killed after he had fled from his house when it was stoned by a mob.

Grosskopf said the evidence of Sethwala's mother was supported in material respects by her daughter, Magdalene, and the two Xaba daughters.

Magdalene had identified 10 of the accused as persons who had been in the group outside the house.

The judge said that with the exception, perhaps of Bekebeke, the identity of all the appellants had been in dispute at the trial.

They had denied any part in the incident at the house or the later killing of Sethwala.

The appellants' alibis had all been rejected by the trial court as not reasonably possibly true.

On the question of the 16 who had received leave to appeal on the basis that they formed part of the crowd at the house and which threw stones, the judge said to convict a person of murder it had to be proved that he had the intention to kill a person and, generally speaking, he had committed the act that had caused the person's death.

Death Row to freedom

253

Somehow 3015191

ELEVEN of the Uppington 14 sentenced to death in 1989 for the murder of a municipal policeman walked out of prison free people yesterday after the Appeal Court overturned their convictions and death sentences.

Lawyer Ms Andy Durbach said from Pretoria that they were ecstatic but sad at leaving three prisoners behind.

The court overturned 21 of the 25 murder convictions in the case. Three people were acquitted.

The 25 were the first people in South Africa to be convicted of murder on the grounds of common purpose.

In a 212-page judgment yesterday, the Appeal Court substituted 11 death sentences with terms of imprisonment varying from a year, suspended for five years to 12 years.

Nineteen sentences were suspended.

The group who were freed yesterday included grandmother Evelina de Bruin, the only woman on Death Row, and her husband Gideon Madlongwane, whose convictions of murder were changed to guilty on public violence.

Murder

The others are Kenneth Pankie Khumalo, Eric Trus Gubula, David Lekhanang, Myner Gudlanu Bovi, Zuko Zabandlin, Andrew Lekhanang, Wellington Mazisa, Boy Jafa and Albert Tywill Zonga. Mofhatle, Xolile Yona and Justice Bekebeke had their murder convictions confirmed but their death sentences were changed to terms of imprisonment between eight and 12 years.

The 14 have been on Death Row since they were sentenced to hang in May 1989 by Mr Justice



a display of Kalashnikov guns in the centre of Addis Ababa is taken over the Ethiopian Press

Talkback show

The World Health Organisation and other similar bodies have declared tomorrow International Non-Smoking Day. Do people have the right to tell others to stop smoking or do smokers have rights too? Telephone Radio Metro DJ Tim Modise between 4.30 and 5pm today and share your opinion with the nation. The hotline number is 714-8063. Listen to the *Sowetan* Radio Metro Talkback programme on mediumwave 576 Khz.

MONTH-END SPECIALS

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AMERICAN FLAIR Twinpack R7,59

DYNAMIC CURL SHAMPOO & CONDITIONER 250 ml each R1,99

KNEE HIR'S R1,69



Govan Mbeki ... an intellectual guru to many of those imprisoned for political activity

Lessons in the struggle at the Island university

For many years, Robben Island was the university of the struggle, and Govan Mbeki one of the tutors. Now his prison writings have been published.

He spoke to **MONDLI MAKHANYA**

FORTY years after publishing his first book, African National Congress stalwart Govan Mbeki has released his second — a collection of his prison writings.

Learning from Robben Island (David Philip, R29,99) consists of essays that Mbeki wrote as political education lessons for inmates of Robben Island. The essays range from tributes to fellow Communist Party members Ruth First and Moses Mabhida to tips on mass mobilisation and analyses of the "apartheid economy".

Mbeki's first book, *The Peasant Revolt*, written in the early 1950s, dealt with the Pondoland rebellion. Another book, written during his 19 months under banning orders, is due out before the end of the year. Historian Colin Bundy is also writing a biography of Mbeki.

Mbeki was one of the main authors of the syllabi for ANC-aligned prisoners on Robben Island. Explaining the need for formal political education, Mbeki told *The Weekly Mail* that "There were the comrades who grew up when the ANC had already been banned and they were confused about the relationship between the ANC and the SACP. We decided then that we should draw a syllabus which would deal with the national democratic struggle."

The "syllabus" — which ran for three years — was conducted under very difficult conditions. The study material, which took so much energy and time to smuggle into and around the prison, was often confiscated by the prison authorities.

"When they discovered our 'banks'," says Mbeki, "they would confiscate all our material, which was often all in handwriting. But we were fortunate, because we always copied whatever material had been smuggled into jail

commended by the University of South Africa."

Old age and 25 years of incarceration have not blunted the intellect of a man regarded in ANC and SACP circles as something of a guru, nor have they left him bitter.

"We are not bitter, not because we have forgiven but because there is so much to be done, that we cannot afford to waste valuable time and resources on anger."

Even books of 500 pages were copied."

Political education on the island took place during hard-labour sessions on the quarry and over the table at mealtimes. The fact that until 1980 newspapers were not permitted on the Island did not hamper prisoners' ability to accurately comment on the political situation outside.

"We depended on our own ability to analyse the situation and we were also guided by the policy objectives of the ANC," says Mbeki. "We also made sure that those who were studying obtained all the books which were rec-

Hunger strikers

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vow to continue

Wilmant 30/51-6/6/91

By GAYE DAVIS, Cape Town

HUNGER strikers in Johannesburg Hospital, in a letter written on the 28th day of their fast have reaffirmed their commitment to continue. The nine men are among 104 estimated by the Human Rights Commission still to be on hunger strike around the country.

In their letter, Jabu Masina, Ting-Ting Masango and others note "with utter dismay" the government's failure to release them and other political prisoners still behind bars.

Nine hunger strikers from Diepkloof Prison have all been admitted to the Johannesburg Hospital and are reported to be "very weak". It is the second time in five months that these political prisoners have been on hunger strike, after fasting for 19 days during December, the HRC said.

A flurry of releases last Friday brought the number of hunger strikers in Somerset Hospital, Cape Town, down from six to two, but releases have since ground to a halt. Those in hospital and still in Pollsmoor Prison were continuing their fast, Hunger Strike Support Committee member Willie Hofmeyr said yesterday.

"It was hoped the releases meant there would be movement on the issue but nothing has happened since then," he said.

Reports that some prisoners had suspended their fast as a result of the releases has led to the impression being created that the hunger strike as a whole had been suspended but this was not the case, Hofmeyr said.

The HRC said on Wednesday, the Human Rights Commission said that, to the best of its knowledge, 95 political prisoners and nine awaiting trial prisoners were still on hunger strike.

These include eight in Cape Town, four in Pretoria Security, nine from Diepkloof (now in Johannesburg Hospital), seven at Barberton, eight at Modderbee (all 29 days), nine at Bethal (28 days), nine at Westville (27 days), one at Witbank (nine days), two at Potchefstroom and 35 at Leeukop (who suspended their fast after 10 days and resumed it on May 25).

'Cheap food' scandal link to weak protestors

By GAVIN EVANS

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W/Mail 30/5 - 6/6/91

THE rapid deterioration in the condition of South Africa's hunger strikers may be linked to the "Cheap Food" prisons bribery scandal currently being investigated by the South African Police.

Doctors treating the estimated 104 political prisoners currently on hunger strike, have noted the decline in their health has been more rapid than that of, for example, the Irish hunger strikers of 10 years ago, and believe the cause could be sub-standard, soya-based diet prisoners were getting until two months ago.

According to the Human Rights Commission, after 29 days of the hunger strike 25 prisoners are currently in hospital, and at least eight other hospitalised hunger strikers have been released. Several hunger strikers have collapsed, and are facing the danger of permanent damage to their kidneys.

The HRC says that there are currently 95 prisoners (including 35 from Leeuwkop who have resumed their hunger strike) and nine awaiting-trial prisoners on hunger strike.

There could be a link between a recent prisons bribery scandal and the rapid deterioration of the health of the hunger strikers, reports **GAVIN EVANS**

Two months ago the Minister of Justice, Kobie Coetsee announced that Pretoria's Chief Magistrate, PAJ Burger, had been appointed to investigate the suitability of the soya-based food supplied by the company Pro Tol to the Department of Correctional Services.

A top government nutritionist has been relieved of duties pending the outcome of a police investigation into allegations that he rigged state tenders in favour of Pro Tol, after he and others had been given substantial bribes.

The SAP initiated a Council for Scientific and Industrial Research investigation into the Pro Tol products which apparently revealed that the "cheap" food supplied by the company was nutritionally deficient, and could lead to malnutrition. Vitamins specified for inclusion by the state

were found to be missing, and it was found that there was too much soya in the diets of black prisoners.

According to Dr Aslam Dasoo, who has dealt extensively with hunger strikers since 1989, "one of the most important criteria for the length of survival of a hunger striker is his or her pre-hunger strike state of nutrition".

Dasoo, the national information secretary of the South African Health Workers Congress, said research into the Irish experience had shown that these strikers "started developing problems some days later than those currently on hunger strike in South Africa".

Dasoo said that soya-based diets, if not sufficiently supplemented by other nutrients, tended to be deficient in crucial minerals and vitamins.

This could contribute to speeding up pre-renal failure — after which "in between one week and 10 days permanent damage is done to the kidneys".

The Weekly Mail had not yet received comment from the Department of Correctional Services at the time of going to press.

Red Cross visits over 1 000 prisoners (253)

The Argus Correspondent JOHANNESBURG. — Three teams of the International Committee of the Red Cross Society (ICRC) last month visited 1 140 prisoners in 61 prisons around the country to look at conditions under which prisoners were being held.

ICRC head of mission in SA Mr Tom Pfanner said in a follow-up visit this month, at the request of the government, that the ICRC had visited 202 prisons to check whether the mes-

sage from the Pretoria Minute had reached the prisoners. The delegates, including a doctor, had at the request of the Department of Correctional Services also visited prisoners on hunger strike at the Pretoria prison and at Pietermaritzburg.

No details of the ICRC's findings were released to the media as Mr Pfanner said this would be contrary to his organisation's policy, and their agreement with the government.

Mr Pfanner said the ICRC has applied to the various authorities for access to prisoners. So far no reply has been received.

The ICRC has also not yet heard from the ANC regarding access to people detained by the organisation at camps in Southern Africa. Mr Pfanner said previously the ANC has refused access, citing security considerations.

Referring to the violence, Mr Pfanner said his organisation had visited the warlike Reef, southern Natal and Richmond areas to see what temporary assistance they could offer in the form of shelter, blankets and food.

At the Zonkeziwe shantytown on the East Rand, where there had been an estimated 80 000 residents, only 15 000 had remained after violence had affected the area. The other 65 000 had been misplaced and had not gone back, fearing reprisals, he said.

Over 1 000 political ⁽²⁵³⁾ released

A total of 1 013 political prisoners "from various sides of the political spectrum" had been released between February 3 and May 27, Minister of Correctional Services Kofie Coetsee said in Parliament yesterday.

"Persons and/or organisations who had not committed themselves to peaceful solutions and development did not enjoy the benefit of an earlier release," he said in a written reply to a question from Louis Stofberg (CP Sasolburg)

In a written reply to a question by Dave Dalling (DP Sandton), Mr Coetsee said there had been more than 390 applications for release

Prisoners who claimed that they qualified for release as political prisoners were serving sentences mainly for serious offences such as murder, attempted murder, robbery, or offences involving serious injury, he said

These applications were being dealt with individually.
— Sapa.

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Govt urged: name hunger strikers

Star 30/5/91

By Shirley Woodgate (253)

Justice and Correctional Services Minister Kobie Coetsee has been challenged to publish the names of hunger strikers and the crimes for which they were jailed.

The challenge by Audrey Coleman, former executive member of the Detainees' Aid Centre, came in reaction to Mr Coetsee's statement yesterday that hunger strikers would not be released merely because they risked their lives by fasting.

He said at least 90 percent of the release applications fell outside the agreed guidelines and included requests for release by people convicted of rape and bestiality.

This had led to delays in processing applications for the release of bona fide political prisoners, Mr Coetsee said.

As the hunger strike entered

its 30th day today Mrs Coleman said that instead of hiding behind a smokescreen of rape and bestiality, Mr Coetsee should "name the prisoners and their crimes so that the public can understand and decide".

Wilhe Hofmeyer, the lawyer representing the Hunger Strike Committee for Robben Island, rejected the claim that all prisoners now being held in prison had been convicted of serious criminal offences.

"The fact is that a number of prisoners now in jail were convicted of attacks on purely military targets.

"A case in point is Isaac Mbaso now in Pollsmoor Prison, who was convicted of an attack on military targets causing no serious injuries or deaths," Mr Hofmeyer added.

Challenging Mr Coetsee's statement that many applications for release had been received only after April 30, Mr Hofmeyer said many Robben Island prisoners had submitted

their applications in January.

The Human Rights Commission reported yesterday the number of hunger strikers had risen to 104, at least 45 of whom started fasting last week.

The first batch of prisoners embarked on the hunger strike on May 1 to demand their release in terms of the April 30 accord between the Government and the ANC.

● Mr Coetsee last night released a list of convictions of individuals who had applied for political status, which included theft of a cheque book, stabbing a wife's lover, failure to appear in court, escaping from custody, and breaking into an old age home and strangling an 80-year-old woman.

"Even in this transitional phase in our history, the State continues to bear the responsibility for law and order.

"It cannot expose the public to relentless and dangerous criminals," he said.

Celebrations for Evelyn

By Helen Grange 30/5/79

Upington's Paballelo township erupted into song and dance yesterday as grandmother Evelyn de Bruin was released from prison

The only woman to have been on Death Row returned home to the dusty township at about 4 pm yesterday from the local prison, where she had been held apart from those convicted with her in Pretoria

"Everybody was shouting and toyi-toying. It was a great day for Upington," said a resident, Marvin Davids

The township will resume celebrations later today when a minibus bringing

more released Upington prisoners arrives

It is understood the group flew to Kimberley last night and will drive to Upington in a minibus provided by the SA Council of Churches

It will be the first time in three years that residents will see the group of prisoners, a number of whom were key members of the community before they were arrested for the murder of a municipal policeman

James de Bruin, Ms de Bruin's son, said he was unable to sleep all night because he was "too happy"

His mother has nine children and more than 12 grandchildren "She was overwhelmed to see them"

FW, ANC women talk for 5 hours

By Peter Fabricius
Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — President de Klerk and the ANC Women's League struck deadlock on the issue of releasing hunger strikers, after a historic meeting at Tuynhuis, lasting more than five hours last night.

Women's League president Gertrude Shope led a delegation of 22 members to the meeting to discuss various problems including violence and political prisoners.

The delegation included Winnie Mandela, head of the league's PWV region.

Despite the deadlock, Mrs Shope described the meeting as a "breakthrough".

"It was a breakthrough because at least we sat down and

discussed a few things together," Mrs Shope said.

"Unlike 1956 when Prime Minister J G Strijdom didn't want to talk with the women when they wanted to see him."

Sources close to the talks disclosed that Mr de Klerk had given each one of the 22 delegates a hearing.

Political observers said it was clear Mr de Klerk had taken pains to show respect to the women.

The delegation of women — all dressed in black to mourn the violence — arrived at Tuynhuis at 5 pm and left after 10 30 pm.

Mrs Shope said the talks ended in deadlock and the league would be meeting today to review the talks before holding a press conference.

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Although she did not say so, it is understood disagreement over the release of hunger strikers caused the deadlock.

Mr de Klerk issued a statement after the meeting, saying he believed women had a "very important contribution to make in changing attitudes which underlie the culture of violence gripping our country".

"In respect of your main plea on the hunger strikers, the Government is deeply concerned about the situation," Mr de Klerk said.

He was satisfied that all prisoners who clearly qualified for release had been released.

"All that now remain are those individuals who have committed serious common law crimes, such as murder, rape, assault and robbery."

Govt gets tough on hunger strikers

CT 20/5/91

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Political Staff

THE government last night took a tough line against prisoners on hunger strike and said it could not be expected to consider their release while they had deliberately endangered their lives and health.

"The only basis on which the release of prisoners, claiming a political motive will be considered, is that of an application by individual prisoners dealt with through the mechanisms agreed upon," the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, said.

"It is absolutely unwarranted and irresponsible of prisoners to place their lives and health in jeopardy whilst their action cannot have any influence on the outcome of their applications for release.

"It is even more absurd for a prisoner to embark on a hunger strike, claiming release, when he has not even completed an application form.

"It has never been the understanding with any organisation that anyone who simply claims to be a political prisoner should be released."

Prisoners' release 'under review' (253)

Political Staff 20/5/91

MORE THAN 1 000 political prisoners had already been released and more than 390 more applications for release were being considered by the consulting body of judges, the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, said yesterday.

Between February 2 and May 27, a total of 1 013 prisoners were released, he said in reply to a question tabled by Mr Louis Stofberg (CP, Sasolburg).

Mr Coetsee said in reply to another question, tabled by Mr David Dalling (DP, Sandton), that prisoners previously classified "for administrative reasons" as so-called security prisoners were still in jail because they had also committed serious common-law offences. The exceptions were PAC prisoners who had elected not to apply for release.

● The number of hunger-striking political prisoners has risen to 104, the Human Rights Commission said yesterday.

Nine hunger strikers — who entered the 27th day of their strike at the Johannesburg hospital — were very weak, sources at the hospital told Sapa.

Seven Cape Town hunger strikers were very weak, but receiving daily medical attention, their lawyer, Mr Willie Hofmeyr, told Sapa.

and successful constitutional talks.

It is also clear that President De Klerk is not prepared to risk the international and domestic consequences of a hunger striker dying in jail. He was warned of this by Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu during a 90-minute meeting in Cape Town last week, and is understood to have shown keen awareness of the situation.

Government has been severely criticised in recent weeks for failing to release "political" prisoners at a faster rate in terms of its agreements with the ANC. Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee has responded by pointing out that a thorough and essential administrative review precedes the release of prisoners, and he is doing all he can to speed up the process.

But with the release of Webster and Rohan it seems that no prisoners jailed for "political" offences will be denied freedom — including Pretoria mass murderer Barend Strydom.

Cape Town lawyer Willie Hofmeyr, who acts for some of the prisoners, says 21 of the 29 former Robben Island prisoners who started a hunger strike earlier this month have been released. Of the remaining eight, two are in Somerset Hospital in Cape Town and six in Pollsmoor prison. (There are no longer any "political" prisoners on Robben Island.)

Hofmeyr says government's decision to release the 21 before they had suspended their hunger strike was a significant departure from the previous policy, which insisted that prisoners resume eating before the authorities would consider any further action.

There are estimated to be between 70 and 110 prisoners on hunger strike (though some at prisons in the Transvaal are reported to have suspended their action). Tutu said Coetsee told him at his meeting with De Klerk last week that there were 70, but the Human Rights Commission gives a figure of 110, according to Hofmeyr.

Though welcomed by the ANC, De Klerk's soft line on the hunger strikers has a dangerous aspect. He may be setting precedents that will have to be followed in the case of people convicted of offences in the current wave of violence. After all, is there much difference in principle between an Inkatha supporter killing an ANC member in a bomb attack, and an ANC supporter killing a NP-supporting policeman?

It is a slippery slope, and the situation must be clarified. It is essential for De Klerk to finalise and explain his policy on the release of political offenders as soon as possible. He must counter suspicion that he is compromising important legal principles for the sake of short-term political expediency. ■

HUNGER STRIKERS ^{FM} 31/5/91 **MERCY OR WEAKNESS?**

A general amnesty for all prisoners convicted of politically motivated crimes — including murder — seems inevitable in the wake of the release over the past few days of hunger-striking convicts in Cape Town. (253)

The freeing of two in particular is significant. Gordon Webster, who was jailed for 24 years for killing a policeman in a bomb attack; and former journalist Rafiq Rohan, who was sentenced only last year to 15 years in prison for a bombing campaign in Durban in which 17 people were injured. Their release indicates an implicit acceptance by government of the principle of "political" crimes, and of the need to pardon convicted offenders in the interests of reconciliation.

State confident hunger strikes are waning

Political Correspondent (253)

THE government appears confident that the wave of politically motivated hunger strikes is on the wane, or at least will have no fatal consequences

This emerged during a Press conference held yesterday by the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Kobie Coetsee

Mr Coetsee announced that the hunger strike among former Robben Island prisoners — at Somerset Hospital and Pollsmoor prison — had ended

While Mr Coetsee reiterated the sentiment of Wednesday's

ARGUS 31/5/91
statement in which he made it clear the government would not give in to the hunger-strike strategy and release prisoners on that basis alone, he was confident there would be no deaths

The hunger strikers, he said, did not fall into an easily identifiable category. Each case had to be assessed individually and in every case a serious crime — murder, rape, robbery or grievous bodily harm — was involved.

The National Association of Democratic Lawyers said Mr Coetsee's statement on the class of prisoners left on hunger strike was incorrect and questioned his

objectivity in the matter

Of the remaining 64 hunger strikers, 26 are at Leeukop prison, 12 in Johannesburg, seven in Barberton, three in Durban, one in Pietersberg, two in Potchefstroom, 12 in Bethal and one in Pretoria

Former Soviet spy and SA Navy commodore Dieter Gerhard's application for release has been turned down by President De Klerk

Mr Coetsee said a number of Pan Africanist Congress prisoners could be released if they committed themselves to peaceful involvement and solutions



Joyful reunion . . . Evelina de Bruin, one of the Upington 26 released this week, is greeted by friends.

Picture: Herbert Mabuza

Toy-toying and tears greet 10 on return to Upington

Star 31/5/91. (253)

By Helen Grange

UPINGTON — The little homes of 10 former Death Row prisoners of Paballelo township were filled to overflowing yesterday, a day of joyful tears and freedom long yearned for

As the 10 released prisoners, still in brown prison gear, drove in convoy into the dusty township just before noon, old and young crowded into the streets

The crowd formed a huge toyi-toying parade which followed the vehicles as they

drove to the first stop — the home of Eric Gubula.

As he climbed out of a minibus, he was splashed with water, a traditional Paballelo ceremony symbolising cleansing and protection from jail

Mr Gubula, a single man, made his way serenely to his house, walking over blankets his mother had laid on the path.

The same cleansing ceremony greeted each of the 10

One of the last to return was Gideon Madlongolwane, the white-haired husband of Evelina de Bruin who was released

on Wednesday afternoon from Upington prison.

The two clung to each other in the first embrace they had exchanged since August last year, when Evelina was transferred from Pretoria Central prison to Upington prison.

Her house was filled with relatives and friends

At Kenneth Khumalo's home, people crowded at the door and pushed into his lounge to hear his comments to The Star about his prison days and his new-found freedom.

"It is my birthday on Satur-

day It will be a day to celebrate because I have my life back," Mr Khumalo said

He had always being confident, however, that he and his fellow Death Row inmates would one day be released

The only shadow that hung over their homecoming had been the leaving behind of "our comrades Zonga Mokatle, Zolile Yona and Justice Bekebeke"

A homecoming rally is being planned by the Upington ANC branch and the community

Govt-ANC ties at breaking point

Prisoner-release

issue explosive

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Satisfied

Strained relations between the Government and the ANC are stretching to breaking point over the health of political prisoners who have spent a month on a hunger strike.

According to the Human Rights Commission, 103 prisoners were still on hunger strike yesterday. However, the Government said the number had dropped to 64.

Indications are that their release is becoming an explosive issue in the ranks of the ANC.

The organisation yesterday said it took "strong exception to the callous and irresponsible statements of the Government on the plight of political prisoners".

It again warned that it would hold President de Klerk and his Government responsible should any hunger striker die or suffer permanent health damage.

The ANC had reiterated its call for the immediate release of all political prisoners.

This attack followed statements by Mr de Klerk and Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee on the hunger strike issue on Wednesday night.

Mr Coetsee warned that political hunger strikers would not be released merely because they risked their lives by fasting.

He said the processing of release applications had been frustrated by the fact that at least 90 percent fell outside the agreed guidelines, and included demands for summary release by people who had been convicted of rape and bestiality.

Mr Coetsee said that after the final category was announced on April 24, the only class of prisoners left who wanted political status were those who had committed murder, rape, robbery or crimes resulting in serious bodily harm.

Mr de Klerk said in a statement after meeting an ANC Women's League delegation in Cape Town that he was satisfied all prisoners who clearly qualified for release had been released.

"All that now remain are those individuals who have committed serious common-law crimes such as murder, rape, assault and robbery," Mr de Klerk said.

The ANC said "Their (De Klerk and Coetsee) claim that all prisoners who qualify for release as political prisoners have been released, and that the hunger strikers cannot be released because those who remain in jail are 'criminals convicted of rape and bestiality', is offensive in the extreme."

"These are people who were prepared to sacrifice their lives for democracy."

The ANC claimed that Mr de Klerk and Mr Coetsee had made "blatantly untruthful statements".

"We protest most vehemently against these claims. The hunger strikers included people like Mandla Maseko, Jabu Masina and Ting-Ting Masango, members of the ANC who carried out the activities they have been imprisoned for as part of the struggle against apartheid."

"For a Government that bears responsibility for apartheid, and which was eventually forced to acknowledge that it was unworkable and wrong, to keep these fighters against apartheid in prison is outrageous," the ANC statement said.

Its eastern Transvaal region has announced that it will start an "intensive and indefinite" consumer boycott next week if 19 hunger strikers held in Bethal and Bar-

● To Page 3

Prisoner-release issue becomes explosive

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● From Page 1

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judicial advisory committee, and 193 had been finalised.

The committee had recommended that 160 should not be released, the sentences of four should be commuted and 29 should be released.

The release of nine of these political prisoners — one a hunger striker — had been authorised yesterday.

Of the former Robben Island prisoners there were only 28 still in prison — six from the ANC, 10 from the PAC and two from the Black Consciousness Movement.

The total number of political prisoners released since February last year was 1 022.

Mr Coetsee said 4 444 applications for release were received only after April 30.

"More than 90 percent of these applicants are taking a chance, clearly falling outside the ambit of indemnity."

All those who clearly fell within the ambit of the guide-

lines for political prisoners had been released.

Mr Coetsee said he was doing his best to involve the ANC in the applications for release.

He said the number of hunger strikers had dropped and the Government believed that wisdom would prevail.

Mr Coetsee said there had been 73 hunger-striking prisoners on Wednesday and this had dropped to 64 yesterday. One of them had now been released.

Of the 63 prisoners still on hunger strike, 26 were in Leeuwkop, 12 in Johannesburg, seven in Barberton, three in Durban, one in Pietersburg, one in Potchefstroom, one in Pretoria and 12 in Bethal.

He also said the State President had rejected an application for release from Soviet spy Dieter Gerhardt.

Mr Coetsee said the treason of which Gerhardt had been convicted was spying for a foreign country for financial gain.

berton hospitals are not released.

The hunger strike is also bound to feature in the scores of ANC Youth League demonstrations planned countrywide today to promote the demands for an interim government and a constituent assembly.

In Cape Town, Mr Coetsee said yesterday that a number of PAC prisoners could be released if they committed themselves to peaceful solutions.

He said these prisoners, most of whom had refused to apply for release under the Indemnity Act, would be freed if they made this commitment.

Many applications which had been delayed were as a result of individuals refusing to adhere to their organisation's commitment to peaceful resolution.

He said there were 552 applications for release before the

ANC angry at 'callous' Coetsee

et 31/5/91 253

JOHANNESBURG — The ANC has said it took "strong exception to the callous and irresponsible statements of the government on the plight of political prisoners".

The ANC repeated its warning that it would hold President F W de Klerk and his government responsible if any hunger striker died or permanently damaged his health and reiterated its call for the immediate release of all political prisoners.

The ANC was reacting to statements by Mr De Klerk and Minister of Justice Mr Kobie Coetsee after they had met a delegation of the ANC Women's League in Cape Town on Wednesday.

"Their claim that all prisoners who qualify for release as political prisoners have been freed — and that the hunger strikers cannot be released because those who remain in jail are criminals convicted of rape and bestiality — is offensive in the extreme," the ANC said.

"We protest most vehemently against these claims. The hunger strikers include people like Mandla Maseko, Jabu Masina and "Ting-Ting" Masango, members of the ANC who carried out the activities they have been imprisoned for as part of the struggle against apartheid.

"These are young people who have been prepared to sacrifice their lives for democracy and the human rights De Klerk says he espouses.

'Outrageous'

"These are people with a deep commitment to a truly just South Africa and who were not prepared to condone the crime of apartheid.

"For a government that bears responsibility for apartheid — and that was forced to acknowledge that it was unworkable and wrong — to keep these fighters against apartheid in prison is outrageous."

Lawyer Mr Willie Hofmeyr said yesterday that the Ministry of Justice's talk of applying the law "compassionately and justly" made a mockery of the suffering it had caused to the hunger strikers he represented.

Mr Hofmeyr said the hunger strike had been a measure of "utter desperation" to try to get the government to honour its Pretoria agreement.

● The National Association of Democratic Lawyers yesterday sharply criticised Mr Kobie Coetsee for his statement.

Nadel said the minister's statement that the only class of prisoners left were those who had committed murder, rape, robbery or crimes resulting in serious bodily harm, was incorrect — Sapa.

'Hunger strike collapsing', says Coetsee

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CT 31/5/91

By BARRY STREEK

THE hunger strike being maintained by 64 prisoners is collapsing, Justice Minister Mr Kobie Coetsee suggested last night.

"It seems to me there is not a great deal of enthusiasm about the hunger strike," he said at a press conference.

"We are under the impression that wisdom will prevail, meaning that that people realise that the process is a very active one which has resulted in the release of prisoners."

The release of nine more prisoners, including one hunger striker, had been finalised.

Mr Coetsee also said only 18 ex-Robben Island prisoners were still in jail — 10 from the PAC, two from the Black Consciousness Movement and six from the ANC.

None of these prisoners was on hunger strike. Asked if any of the hunger strikers were in a fairly critical condition, Mr Coetsee replied "As of this moment, no."

However, the ANC said in a statement yesterday that it took "strong exception to the callous and irresponsible statements of the government on the plight of political prisoners."

It warned it would hold President F W de Klerk and his government responsible should any hunger striker die or suffer permanent health damage, and reiterated its call for the immediate release of all political prisoners.

Crucial time for 'death or release fast' strikers

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Weekend Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Hunger strikers entered a crucial period in their month-long "death or release fast" yesterday while lawyers locked horns with Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee over prisoners qualifying for political prisoner indemnity

The Human Rights Commission claims there are now 104 political prisoners on a country-wide hunger strike. However, the government disputes this and said there were only 64 hunger strikers

ANC spokesman, Mr Carl Niehaus has meanwhile called for the hospitalisation of four "seriously dehydrated" Pretoria Central Prison hunger strikers including former Naval commander, Dieter Gerhardt, Mandla Vilakazi, Steven Maboia and George Mogwane. He said he had visited them this week and all four were experiencing kidney pain, severe headaches and loss of memory

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Starting a new life

far from the noose

Star 1/6/91

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EVELINA de Bruin looks nothing like a woman who hopelessly resigned herself to the hangman's rope two years ago.

At the age of 59, she has been given new life — a life which began at 1 pm on Wednesday when she heard her name on the radio news at Upington prison.

Moments later, the major at the prison cleared up her confusion "Glimlag! Jy gaan huis toe Gaan pak" (Smile! You're going home Go and pack)

It was the end of two dark and lonely years, as the only woman on Death Row, spent mostly at Pretoria Central Prison — and recently at Upington Prison, where she was transferred 10 months ago.

Forgiven

As the grandmother of six and mother of 10 recalls her excitement on hearing the news of her freedom, she becomes animated, speaking quickly and laughing intermittently.

"I cried. It was unbelievable. They gave me two pills for my heart. I thought God, you can hear a person's prayers."

Evelina, a deeply religious woman, refers frequently to God. "I prayed often to God when I was in prison — that he must show whether I am guilty. My biggest hope was that he would return me to my children. I longed for them so much."

She adds that she has, with the help of God, forgiven everybody — even



WELCOME HOME: Evelina de Bruin returns to her children.

HELEN GRANGE

the woman whose State testimony helped convict her for the murder of a municipal policeman in 1985, an event which resulted in the death sentence being passed against her and 13 others in May 1989.

"I am not angry at her. I would invite her to my home if I met her in the street," she says.

Evelina's complete lack of anger is remarkable in the light of the anxious and uncertain years she has spent in prison.

During this time, her children and lawyers worried about her deteriorating mental and physical condition (she has severe arthritis and a heart disease) as well as the crippling guilt she felt about her two youngest children.

In November 1989, she said in an affidavit "I am so worried about the welfare of my children that I have not been able to eat for the past week. I cannot sleep properly. I feel afraid and sad when I think of my children."

Being illiterate, Evelina sat for much of the day in prison doing nothing — unable to dampen her depression through activity.

Overwhelmed

Last Friday, Evelina decided she would embark on a hunger strike from Monday.

"I felt I couldn't sit there any longer and wait for the Appeal Court to decide my future. I was tired and sick."

She was talked out of it by prison doctors on Monday morning after refusing breakfast.

This week, she was surrounded by her family and the two tall children she had so hankered after. People streamed into her little blue house in Paballelo, Upington, wailing and kissing her, overwhelmed with emotion.

Although she would rather forget the lonely years she has left behind, she insists she will never forget the prison warders who helped her through.

Today, because of the lessons her warders gave her, she can sign her name and crochet with only one needle instead of two. And many hours of consolation came when her warder — a Sergeant Lions — read out the letters and postcards she received from supportive strangers the world over.

Reunited with her husband, a white-haired Gideon Madlongolwane, Evelina is already bustling cheerfully around her house, cleaning and making tea for her friends. Her arthritis seems only to slow her down a little.

On the wall in her sitting room, stands a little placard which reads in Afrikaans "What is a home without a mother."

Another 25 prisoners eat again ⁽²⁵³⁾

ANOTHER 25 hunger strikers had started eating again, a spokesman from the Department of Correctional Services said yesterday.

The latest figures, which brought the total number of prisoners still on hunger strike to 39, were reported yesterday.

The department's spokesman said prisoners seemed to have little enthusiasm to continue the hunger strikes.

The Minister of Justice, Mr. Kobie Coetsee, said at a press conference on Thursday that the hunger strike was a matter of grave concern to the government, and that everything possible was being done to ensure the health and well-being of the prisoners —
Sapa

Pact to bring home SA's forgotten prisoners

THE SUNDAY MORNING ASSESSMENT

By Edyth Bulbring and Mike Hartnack

THEY are South Africa's forgotten people. Rebel ANC members held by the organisation in isolated bush camps or in prisons in Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia. And South African agents who were arrested during their cloak-and-dagger activities in neighbouring countries during the P.W. Botha era. They languish in grim prisons like Harare's Chikumbi.

Now, however, many of these casualties of an undeclared war may come marching home.

The ANC this week declared all its prisoners would have been released by Friday. The SA government and ANC, meanwhile, have joined hands in an attempt to free an estimated eight former SA agents from the prisons of neighbouring countries as part of a general amnesty on political prisoners.

At least one agent, Isiah Moyo, was secretly released from a Zambian prison a few weeks ago

after private negotiations between Foreign Minister P.W. Botha and President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia and an ANC appeal for the spy's release.

He was jailed for 50 years with hard labour three years ago by a Zambian court which found him guilty of spying for SA.

Moyo, 35, of Johannesburg, was found guilty by Justice High Commissioner Timothy Kabalala in March 1988 of three counts of spying for SA. He pleaded not guilty

The ANC said in a statement last week it had been interceding with certain Frontline States to secure the release of agents and operatives of the SA security services who had been convicted of offences in these countries.

The organisation cited Moyo as an example of an SA agent in whose case it had been intervening. It is understood the ANC played a key role in securing the release of self-confessed spy Odile Harrington from Zim-

babwe's maximum security Chikumbi Prison in November last year.

Harrington was sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment in 1987 for spying for SA and her sentence was reduced to 12 years after an appeal.

Others being held in Chikumbi are

- White Zimbabweans Michael Smith, 37, Kevin Woods, 38, and Transkei born Phillip Conjwayo, 57, under sentence of death for bombing an ANC safe house in Botswana in January 1988.
- Barry Bawden, serving a life sentence for aiding the May 1987 raid on ANC premises in Harare.
- Randburg security guard Denis "Sammy" Beahan, serving 40 years for leading an abortive attempt to free the other agents.

Two SA commandos are being held in a Botswana prison. They are Johannes Basson and Theodore Hartmann, who were sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in December 1988 for a failed raid on Gaborone in June 1988.

The ANC said in the statement it had fulfilled its commitment made in February this year to release all ANC dissidents being held in detention camps by May 31 this year.

Those released had chosen to return home, be re-integrated into

the ranks of the ANC or take up scholarships for study and training abroad. Those who chose to return home would be repatriated together with other returning exiles in the course of time, the statement said.

Attempts to obtain further information on the number of detainees released from the camps and their whereabouts were blocked by the ANC this week.

However, MK chief of staff Chris Hani said last month there were about 50 detainees still being held in the camps.

He did not, however, refer to what has become one of the most notorious examples of ANC behaviour towards out-of-favour

comrades — the so-called Mandela trials.

Katiza Cebekhina and Gabriel Mkwave, both co-accused in the Winnie Mandela trial on charges of kidnap and assault, were spirited out of the country before they could give State's evidence — allegedly by the ANC.

Both men are now in Zambian prisons. Cebekhina was apparently thrown into jail "for his own safety" after giving an interview to a newspaper in which he claimed he had been hauled out of SA by the ANC.

But even here there is some movement, this week, the Zambian Government said. It would

consider extraditing Cebekhina if the SA authorities made the request.

Not all are, however, satisfied with the ANC's bona fides. A group of ANC dissidents under the aegis of the Returned Exile Coordinating Committee believe many ANC prisoners are still not accounted for.

Committee secretary Nicholas Dyason, who spent four years in the ANC's detention camp, Qutho, said the organisation did not know how many detainees had been released.

However, the organisation knew of one camp in Uganda, three in Tanzania and one in Zambia where detainees had been held.

"We haven't had any communication from detainees the ANC claims it has released and we are therefore dubious about the validity of the information," he said.

'Trouble' if they die, ANC warns

By DESMOND BLOW *CP News 21/6/91*

THE ANC yesterday warned that the situation in the townships was "explosive" because of the government's refusal to release political prisoners on hunger strike.

"There are several prisoners in a critical condition and if one of them should die the situation could become explosive," an ANC spokesperson said.

A prisoner by the name of Tsakane has been admitted to Baragwanath Hospital in a critical condition.

According to Gill Marcus of the ANC, Tsakane, a member of MK, has been an awaiting trial prisoner for several months, and is "a clearly defined political prisoner".

The Department of Correctional Services said yesterday that only 39 prisoners were still on hunger strike and not 104 as claimed by the ANC.

However, Marcus said the ANC and the Human Rights Commission agreed the number was 104.

Minister of Justice and Correctional Services Kobie Coetsee is adamant he will not release prisoners merely because they are on hunger strike.

State President FW de Klerk said in a statement after meeting an ANC Women's League delegation in Cape Town that he was satisfied all prisoners who clearly qualified had been released.

He said those who remained had committed serious common law offences like murder and rape.

Coetsee released documents showing a sample of 30 of the prisoners on hunger strike and their offences.

The documents showed all 30 were found guilty of murder, attempted murder and kidnapping.

The ANC said yesterday the government was renegeing on the Pretoria Minute agreement.

"It was agreed that all political prisoners should be released by April 30, there was no talk of there being any exceptions for common law crimes."

Marcus said there appeared to be no logic in the government's release of prisoners.

"Some prisoners who were sentenced to death for murder were released while others who were found guilty of lesser offences are still in jail. In other cases prisoners have been released while their comrades sentenced with them are still in jail."

She maintained the government was well aware from their prison records who were political prisoners.

Political comment and newsbills by K Sibya, headlines and sub-editing by S James, both of 2 Herb Street, Johannesburg.

Hunger-strike row simmers

'Danger stage' for hunger strikers

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ARG 3/6/91

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Some of the 103 hunger strikers protesting against their continued detention had entered a recognised "danger stage" after 33 days of fasting, ANC spokesman Mr Carl Niehaus said

It was acknowledged that permanent damage could set in after a person lost over 20 percent body weight as some of the hunger strikers had, he said

Those who had been fasting for the duration were experiencing loss of memory, occasional loss of consciousness and were showing signs of kidney failure

Only some of the protesters had taken part in the hunger strike from its beginning. Some had started at a later stage while others had broken their fast and had then resumed it, he said.

He disputed Justice Minister Mr Kobie Coetsee's statement last week that only 64 prisoners were on hunger strike to pressure the government into releasing them as part of its indemnity programme.

The Human Rights Commission had confirmed that 103 were on strike on Friday and it would release the latest data today, he said

● A source said that 1 700 common criminals at Zonderwater prison would embark on a hunger strike today to demand that they be granted three months amnesty for every year they had been in prison.

The prisoners were disgruntled that long-term political prisoners were being granted amnesty.

It was believed the strike could spread nationwide, the source said

Spokesmen for the Department of Correctional Services could not be contacted for comment.

Parents meeting

BLACK parents meet tonight in Langa, Nyanga, Guguletu and Khayelitsha to discuss the education crisis

— Staff Reporter

Hunger-strike prisoners 'in critical condition'

SEVERAL hunger-striking prisoners, some of whom had not eaten for more than a month, were in a critical condition yesterday, ANC spokesman Gill Marcus said.

"If one of them should die the situation could become explosive. The people are extremely angry at the government's description of a political prisoner."

There appeared to be no logic in government's release of prisoners, she said. "Some prisoners who were sentenced to

3/6/91
WILSON ZWANE
death for murder were released while others who were found guilty of lesser offences are still in prison." 253

A Correctional Services Department spokesman said there were 39 prisoners on hunger strike and not 104, as claimed President F W de Klerk said last week he was satisfied all prisoners who clearly qualified for release had been freed.

Strikers facing death ²⁵³ professor

Shirley Woodgate *Nov 4/1991*

Prisoners entering the second month of their hunger strike in prisons and hospitals country-wide now face the very real danger of death, Professor John Kalk of the University of the Witwatersrand's Medical School said today.

As the Government and the Human Rights Commission wrangle over the number of prisoners involved in what the HRC has termed "the second longest politically motivated fast since 1989", Professor Kalk said the danger of overnight death for inexplorable reasons had surfaced in the late 1980s.

Presenting a typical profile of an individual who has been

starved for more than 30 days, Dr Kalk, who has treated more than 30 hunger-strikers since 1989, said most prisoners would have lost about 20 percent of their original body weight.

They would have been drawing on fat and muscle. Unless they were overweight before the start of the hunger strike, they would be emaciated and frail and would suffer from cold intolerance despite heating in hospital wards.

Their heart beats could drop from about 70 beats a minute to between 50 and 60.

He said their blood pressure could fall, particularly if they stood up.

The loss of blood supply to the brain could result in loss of

consciousness and abnormal kidney function.

"The critical stage varies, but at this stage his condition is very unstable."

Dr Kalk expressed grave concern over hunger-striking prisoners who had not been transferred to hospital from jails countrywide, specifically in Barberton, Bethal, Baviaanspoort, Pretoria and Pollsmoor.

Dr Kalk said that this method of protest was drastic and that the men involved were "extraordinarily brave, requiring great psychological strength to persist."

"It should be seen as a last desperate resort by people who see no other way of having injustices resolved."

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Advocates want own fees investigated

CT 4/6/91

(259)

Staff Reporter

TWO of the four advocates who were apparently paid more than R5 million for representing the state in the KTC court case have asked the Cape Bar Council to investigate their "conduct for charging these fees".

The Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, last week disclosed that four advocates were paid R5,3m for representing the state in the court case in which 3 220 victims of Witdoek violence sued the police for R5,1m in damages.

In a letter to the Bar, Mr G. D. Griessel, SC, and Mr Charles Louw said a report published last week said Democratic Party caucus chairman Mr Colin Eglin had described the payment as "staggeringly high".

"It is implicit from Eglin's statement that he imputes to counsel unprofessional conduct in charging the fees referred to," they said.

Attorney last saw clients 10 days ago

AN attorney representing former hunger-striking political prisoners has been barred from seeing his clients for more than a week.

"I last saw my clients about 10 days ago," lawyer Mr Willie Hofmeyr said yesterday.

"According to the Department of Justice, my application to see them is being processed."

Mr Hofmeyr said he presumed it was because he also represents the Robben Island Hunger Strike Committee.

● The Human Rights Commission said yesterday that 86 political prisoners were still on hunger strike — but the Department of Correctional Services said in response that there were 43 — Sapa

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Hunger strike set to break a record

Wilson Zwane

TWENTY-ONE prisoners yesterday entered their 34th day of hunger strike — one of the longest, politically motivated fasts in SA since 1989, the Human Rights Commission (HRC) said.

The HRC said in a statement that 19 prisoners and two detainees awaiting trial had been on hunger strike since the beginning of last month.

Fourteen of the prisoners were in hospitals at Baragwanath, Barberton and Bethal and the conditions of the seven at Barberton were deteriorating, the HRC said.

Seven hunger strikers had been sent back to prison from Bethal hospital and the HRC said that this was cause for "great concern".

"It is highly unlikely that their health would have improved sufficiently to warrant their discharge," it said.

The longest "political" hunger strike in SA was in 1989 when a university researcher, Sandile Thusi, went without food for 38 days to protest against detention without trial.

At the time of going to press the Correctional Services Department was unavailable for comment on the status of the 21 hunger strikers and their conditions. Hunger Strike Committee lawyer Wilhe

Hofmeyr said seven former Robben Island prisoners, who had been on hunger strike and had been admitted to Cape Town's Somerset Hospital, started eating early last week.

"They are still very weak but are recovering at the hospital," Hofmeyr said.

He said that he had been barred from visiting his clients at Somerset Hospital for more than a week.

He said he had paid two "legal" visits to his clients since they began their hunger strike on May 1.

"The last time I saw my clients was about 10 days ago. The Justice Department has told me that my application to see them was being considered," he said.

"Previously, I could phone a day before to arrange a visit but now the department is making things extremely difficult."

Justice Department spokesman Nic Grobler said all applications by prisoners to consult with their legal representatives were considered in terms of the Correctional Services Department's regulations.

Grobler said Hofmeyr had been granted "authority to visit certain of his clients" on May 24 but had not yet done so.

*In contrast with this we have the sterile immobility of the CP [Interjections] There is no doubt that the NP envisaged that it would move in its election manifesto. It stated clearly that discrimination on the basis of race was unacceptable, and that it had to be phased out and abolished [Interjections] It made no secret of this. Its voters knew exactly where they stood, and this was also spelt out to them [Interjections] The NP stated its view on groups in its election document, and it maintains that the basis on which groups were defined at that time was unacceptable. This creates all kinds of problems. It must be reviewed [Interjections] It must be reviewed by negotiation. It is also stated that a new basis and method has to be found in a process of negotiation with the leaders of existing groups, in order to establish freedom of association. The standpoint held by the NP at present that community life and own communities can be maintained without this necessarily taking place in racially based and racially defined communities, is clear evidence of how dynamic the NP is, of its ability to negotiate and its skill in arriving at solutions in co-operation with leaders of other groups, solutions which fit the requirements of our unfolding constitutional dispensation [Interjections]

*Dr C P MULDER: Mr Speaker, the voters thought they knew exactly where they stood with the NP, but they do not know. They have been misled in the process [Interjections] The fact of the matter is that it is not only *Key Issues* which shows that what the hon the Minister is saying is untrue, the hon the State President is saying is untrue, the hon the State President's own words indicate that it is untrue. Let me quote them to hon members. On 20 August, two weeks before polling day, the hon the State President was already Acting State President. That night the hon the State President was interviewed on TV by three senior journalists who asked him about the concept of group. Mr Terrus Myburgh asked him whether, if one were to entrench individual rights, group rights would not take care of themselves. Why the emphasis on group rights? The hon the State President replied as follows:

U vra is dit dan so belangrik? Kom ons kyk net wat sê die Blanke kieserskorps. As 'n mens 1987 se uitslae ontlee, dan het die Blanke kieserskorps, ongeveer 82% van hulle, gestem vir partye wat sê die Blankes is 'n groep, en dit is belangrik dat daar omgesien word na groeppregte van die Blanke minderheid.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

[Interjections] The hon the State President went on to say:

Di is miskien die probleem van die partye wat probeer om die groep se krag te minimaliseer en waartoe hulle nie meer steun kan kry by die stemmers nie.

These are parties such as the DP and the new NP, as was recently proved in Ladybrand [Interjections] The NP had no mandate for this. The defined group in terms of race and the White voters gave them a mandate in terms of time.

I am not merely an individual or part of a minority group. I am a member of a people, a people which in terms of the law of nations lays claim to the right to self-determination just like any other people in the world. The NP will not succeed in turning the peoples of Southern Africa into so-called minority groups, and later into a sea of mere individuals. Individuals who believe that this is possible, were most probably never truly members of a people.

*Mr HD K VANDER MERWE: Mr Speaker, I want to ask the hon the Minister directly today whether the Afrikaner people are a group or eyes. Did they exist and do we still exist? [Interjections] I am asking the hon the Minister whether the Afrikaner people exist today. Do we exist? Does the Afrikaner-Broederbond consist exclusively of Whites or not, and what about the Ruiterswag, the FAK, the Rapportryers and the Junior Rapportryers?

I am telling the hon the Minister that he has declared war against the Afrikaner people [Interjections] He is the greatest enemy the Afrikaner people has ever had, and he supposedly comes from our own ranks [Interjections] The hon the Minister got where he did because he was a Broederbond and because he held that the Afrikaner people was a people. However, he is engaged in the most serious attack that has ever been launched against the Afrikaner people and I want to tell him today that he will also come up against the strongest resistance if he continues with this process of destroying the Afrikaner people. He must listen to what I am telling him today, so that he does not run away the day this happens.

Today he is looking at the party which truly represents the Afrikaner people. We are not going to die in this fatherland, we are going to

live. We are not ashamed about what we were or what we have done in South Africa. However, the hon the Minister must know that he and his party and the hon the State President are the greatest enemies the Afrikaner people have ever had, and they must be destroyed.

*The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr Speaker, the hon member's desire for destruction stretches so far that he has in fact already destroyed his credibility and esteem himself. What is tragic and ironic about this hon member is that he is staying where he is in spite of the fact that he was a member of the Afrikaner-Broederbond [Interjections]

The hon member asked what the Government had done and what it envisaged doing to protect the group and the communities referred to as minority groups. Here I want to emphasise that it is the Government's clear view that the protection of minorities will not be based on a single constitutional measure, but on a whole system of additional interdependent checks and balances. These will comprise provisions entrenched in the Constitution which will ensure representation of minorities as well as a real say for minorities in respect of identified matters of fundamental and sensitive importance. Furthermore, there will also be a bill of rights in which the fundamental rights of the individual are entrenched, together with specific community values that are exercised by the individual. In contrast with our legal tradition, the Supreme Court will also have a new form of authority, based on that of the USA and Germany, which will mean that the Supreme Court will have the power to declare government action that is in conflict with the provisions of the Constitution and the bill of rights legally invalid. There will also be recognition of communities, and recognition of the fact that they have special interests that must be dealt with and managed by them in their own way, in a non-discriminatory way. There will be devolution of power to the second level of government and to effective local government. Also, as we have already stated clearly in the election manifesto, a better distribution of the powers that are at present concentrated in the office of the head of State and of the Government.

There is a whole series of measures that will effectively protect the interests of minorities in a new South Africa. Debate concluded.

Prisoners hunger strikes

2 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Correctional Services (252)

- (1) Whether he and/or his Department is taking any steps to bring about the end of hunger strikes being conducted by prisoners, if so, what steps,
- (2) whether any steps are being taken to expedite the release of prisoners convicted of political offences, if not, why not, if so, what steps?

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The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: Mr Speaker, in the past few weeks a number of prisoners have refused to take their meals. This number varies virtually every day, and so do some of the reasons for the hunger strike. All possible steps to terminate the hunger strike are taken. These include positive persuasion, applying the Tokyo Declaration and visits by responsible leaders such as the Deputy President of the ANC.

Unfortunately there are also those who encourage prisoners to undertake dangerous and irresponsible action and to continue with the hunger strike. One of these is nothing but a disruptive influence purporting to act as a legal adviser.

The prisoners on hunger strike are reportedly undertaking this action to put pressure on the Government for their release.

Yes, and we are sympathetic towards those who think that they should be released, having been led to that belief by people who are irresponsible and totally unaccountable to any authority. There is no reason, except a valid one, for release, and such a valid reason must be determined according to guidelines and on the basis of responsible advice. Hunger-striking does not make a person a political prisoner and does not implicitly and immediately qualify such a person for release.

Every application is dealt with responsibly and expeditiously. To date we have received more than 4 600 applications made after 30 April, and approximately 90% of these applicants are taking a chance. Yet I want to give the assurance that every application is looked at very objectively, even if such an applicant is apparently taking a chance.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

The Government is committed to normalising the political scene in South Africa. This entails, among other things, that politics should be decriminalised. This process can obviously not be applied to serious common-law crimes such as murder, rape and robbery. No one would dare to fault the Government's standpoint that the system of criminal justice should not be impaired by administrative releases which cannot be justified and which cannot make any contribution to a more just and equitable system and society. Society must be protected against crime, and also against those who commit crimes in the name of politics.

It has never been the understanding that anyone who simply claims to be a political prisoner should be released. This attitude, which is now being propagated by several spokesmen, has already led to absurdities. For instance, people who have been convicted of bestiality and rape, as we have pointed out before, have claimed political status and demanded summary release.

Since 2 February 1990, and including yesterday, a total of 1 022 prisoners have been released in terms of the various measures available, as agreed upon between us and the ANC, for instance, and also as a result of applying the criteria for the various categories of offences.

Allegations that a large number of political prisoners are not yet released are untrue. [Time expired.]

MR DJ DALLING: Mr Speaker, I want to thank the hon the Minister for his little lecture. However, the DP is not pressing for the release of rapists, murderers or relentless criminals at all.

All we ask is that those prisoners who have been identified as falling within the categories which were agreed on as long ago as 21 May 1990 be dealt with speedily. This has not happened. Here we have a dispute of fact. The Government blames the ANC, and the ANC and the various lawyers involved blame the Government for the delays which have given rise to the hunger-strike crisis. To quote the Cape Town attorney who represents some of the prisoners who are being held in the Cape:

To date the Government has not provided one word of explanation about the reasons as to why the process of considering applications that were lodged as early as January could not

have been completed by the agreed date of 30 April.

No human being in his right mind, whether a prisoner or otherwise, will endanger his life by not taking food unless he has a case which he believes is absolutely justifiable. In this morning's *Cape Times* the attorney for some of the strikers said:

I last saw my clients about 10 days ago.

This is under the heading "Lawyers Barred from Prisoners".

"According to the Department of Justice my application to see them is being processed." He said he presumed the delay was because he also represents the Robben Island Hunger Strike Committee.

I asked the hon the Minister across the floor of the House why he was blocking the lawyers from seeing their clients and assisting them in getting these applications done. Why has there been this delay in setting up the mechanisms to look at the claims of the prisoners, such as the indemnity committees? Why did it take so long to set these up when the ANC names were known and the judges were named as long ago as January and February of this year?

The Human Rights Commission tells us that as of today there are 86 prisoners on hunger strikes in 12 prisons around the country. This should be a time when, pursuant to the Groote Schuur and Pretoria Minutes and the Pretoria Accord, the political prisoner release programme should foster goodwill and reconciliation at a time of change. Instead it is ensuring ill-will, deep unhappiness, animosity, conflict and danger to peoples' lives. If one prisoner died as a result of a hunger strike, brought about by Government tardiness in fulfilling its obligations, it would be a disaster for the negotiating process and for the credibility of the Government. This bungling and botching of the release process must come to an end.

The hon the Minister should intervene personally to ensure that both the spirit and the letter of the Groote Schuur and Pretoria Minutes are carried out. He should also sort out these disputes as to who did what and who has not done what he or she should have done. He should personally sort these out with the attorneys. Above all he must allow access to the relevant prisoners by the attorneys and he must

stop the delays in these applications. [Time expired.]

*MR C D DE JAGER: Mr Speaker, hunger strikes are serious and sensitive matters. The life of any person is valuable. However, it cannot be tolerated that convicted persons—I am not referring to those awaiting trial who are not being granted a trial within a reasonable time—should take the hon the Minister hostage by means of a hunger strike in order to bring about their release. It is regrettable that precedents have been set which indicate that a hunger strike is a successful method of blackmail to ensure release.

The tight situation which the Government has got itself into by releasing people as a result of hunger strikes can only be solved in one of two ways. We do not advocate the Bobby Sands method that was adopted by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Iron Lady. Just as I am entitled and it is my duty to prevent somebody who wants to jump off a roof from doing so, similarly I must prevent him from dying as a result of a hunger strike by means of which he is trying to nullify the sentence to which civilised society has sentenced him. Just as he can be taken away from that abyss, so he will be taken away in this situation. He must be given food or intravenous feeding, so that he is not able to confound and destroy civilised standards that are set for convicted persons and punishment that has been meted out, by attempted blackmail, by suicide.

The *Sunday Star* reported that the hon the State President had stated last week that all *bona fide* political prisoners had been released. We were always told that there were no political prisoners, but now a definition for them has arisen as a result of concessions, and pressure on the part of the ANC. Can the hon the Minister tell us today how many so-called political prisoners there are, when they will be released?

*MR SPEAKER: Order! The hon members time has expired.

*MR C D DE JAGER: or when they will be brought to order? [Interjections.] [Time expired.]

*MR SPEAKER: Order! I only called the hon member to order.

*THE MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: Mr Speaker, the hon member for Bethal

made a very responsible contribution. I thank him very much for that.

The point is that we scraped the barrel with regard to everyone who could qualify in terms of these categories. Those who remain are in dispute, and are chancers. Last week I said the hon the State President had summarily refused the applications of approximately 1 000 of those chancers who very clearly stood no chance, or did not fall within the definition.

Allegations that a large number of political prisoners are still with us are untrue. No one who was serving a sentence for crimes falling within the several categories is still in prison.

This means that all prisoners who were serving sentences for the following crimes—if they were committed before 8 October 1990—have been released: Unlawfully leaving the country, membership of an organisation, possession of material, contribution toward recruiting anyone on behalf of an organisation, receiving military training while no longer under arms, involvement in illegal gatherings, promoting the arms of previously prohibited organisations, trespassing, arson, public violence. They have been released, unless a person was killed or injured. If a person has been convicted of arson and is still in prison it is because he also killed a person.

People convicted of intimidation, provided no one was killed or injured, attempted murder, unless a dangerous wound was inflicted, and the possession of arms and ammunition have also been released. People in possession of unauthorised explosives have been released, as have been people convicted of high treason, unless such acts have entailed murder, culpable homicide and rape. If there is still a person in prison who committed high treason, then he has also committed murder or one of the other serious offences.

There are many people who applied but who committed crimes after 8 October 1990, people who were given the hope that they could be released.

Therefore, it is clear that the only prisoners now remaining in prison fall within the ambit of the provisions referred to above. They are in dispute, and I will give hon members the details. In other words, the prisoners who remain for consideration are prisoners who have committed offences involving murder, etc.

Mr D H M GIBSON Mr Speaker, the DP is committed to the formation of a broad centrist alliance of moderates to rule South Africa

We believe that anything which advances the peace process must be encouraged and that anything that retards that process must be eliminated The looming crisis relating to prisoners and hunger-strikers must be resolved, and we have to resolve it now It has the potential to cause harm to the reputation of the Government as a reliable and steadfast negotiating partner It has the potential to blacken the name of our country in the eyes of the international community It also has the potential to paint the ANC as being unreasonable about demanding the release of some persons who have committed repulsive crimes Most seriously, it has the potential to create new martyrs and, God knows, we do not need new martyrs in South Africa

Surely the solution lies in the full disclosure of information by both sides If the Pretoria Minute is capable of differing interpretations, the hon the State President and Mr Mandela must negotiate a new arrangement containing specifics about categories and individuals who will be released and those who cannot be released If the Government has dragged its feet in terms of the accusation, the ANC must provide lists and precise details and not indulge in generalised accusations The Government must then be called upon to reply to those aspects, point by point

If the ANC demands that murderers, rapists and robbers be included in the release, they must state which individuals deserve release and those who should not be, people they concede cannot be included in the release Only by letting the harsh light of truth and fact into the picture will sensible, intelligent and balanced South Africans be able to reach an informed conclusion At the moment those people cannot do so [Time expired]

Mr D J DALLING Mr Speaker, firstly I want to say that I really do not think the hon the Minister should attack the attorneys involved in this House If they are doing something which he feels is totally incorrect, he should say it outside the House He should make these accusations outside This is the first point I wish to raise

Secondly, we have 86 people—and there does not seem to be a dispute on that at this mo-

have provided the mechanism with which to sort this out

There is no delay in this In the end we should have a credible criminal justice system We are moving towards a "rechtsstaat", in other words towards a constitutional state or a rule of law If we were simply to forego the punishment of crime and the protection of the society, we would not succeed in arriving at the "rechtsstaat" or at a just society at the end of this exercise [Interjections] [Time expired]

(a) An organization was approached with the aim of furnishing evidence in court, to render expert assistance in the identification of modern and unfamiliar gambling machines and methods

(b) Sun International

I wish to give hon members the assurance that the involvement of the organization during the operations by the South African Police did not arise from a "vendetta" against employees, as alleged in some newspapers The organization's involvement was directed solely at rendering expert assistance to the Police

QUESTIONS

indicates translated version

For oral reply

General Affairs

Question standing over from Tuesday, 28 May 1991

SAP: raids on gambling clubs

*7 Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Law and Order

- (1) Whether, on or about 8 May 1991, the South African Police were involved in raids on gambling clubs in (a) the Johannesburg area and (b) other areas within South Africa, if so, (i) how many members of the South African Police were involved in this operation and (ii) in what areas were these raids carried out,
- (2) whether the Police were assisted by individuals from any organization which operates hotel casinos outside the borders of the Republic, if so, (a) why and (b) what is the name of the organization in question?

B1046E

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

- (1) (a) and (b) Yes
- (i) 182 members
- (ii) Johannesburg, the Vaal Triangle and Durban
- (2) Yes

Mr D H M GIBSON Mr Speaker, the DP is committed to the formation of a broad centrist alliance of moderates to rule South Africa

We believe that anything which advances the peace process must be encouraged and that anything that retards that process must be eliminated The looming crisis relating to prisoners and hunger-strikers must be resolved, and we have to resolve it now It has the potential to cause harm to the reputation of the Government as a reliable and steadfast negotiating partner It has the potential to blacken the name of our country in the eyes of the international community It also has the potential to paint the ANC as being unreasonable about demanding the release of some persons who have committed repulsive crimes Most seriously, it has the potential to create new martyrs and, God knows, we do not need new martyrs in South Africa

Surely the solution lies in the full disclosure of information by both sides If the Pretoria Minute is capable of differing interpretations, the hon the State President and Mr Mandela must negotiate a new arrangement containing specifics about categories and individuals who will be released and those who cannot be released If the Government has dragged its feet in terms of the accusation, the ANC must provide lists and precise details and not indulge in generalised accusations The Government must then be called upon to reply to those aspects, point by point

If the ANC demands that murderers, rapists and robbers be included in the release, they must state which individuals deserve release and those who should not be, people they concede cannot be included in the release Only by letting the harsh light of truth and fact into the picture will sensible, intelligent and balanced South Africans be able to reach an informed conclusion At the moment those people cannot do so [Time expired]

Mr D J DALLING Mr Speaker, firstly I want to say that I really do not think the hon the Minister should attack the attorneys involved in this House If they are doing something which he feels is totally incorrect, he should say it outside the House He should make these accusations outside This is the first point I wish to raise

Secondly, we have 86 people—and there does not seem to be a dispute on that at this mo-

46 hunger strikers suspend their fast

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Forty-six hunger strikers have suspended their fast, leaving 40 prisoners nationwide who still refuse to take food, the Human Rights Commission (HRC) said

The biggest suspension was reported from Leeuwkop where 32 broke their fast

According to yesterday's HRC report, six prisoners at Westville Prison suspended their hunger strike after being misinformed by authorities that the protest had been called off nationally

Six awaiting-trialists at Klerksdorp Prison suspended their strike after being told their applications for release had been received by the Indemnity Office

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They embarked on their strike because they had not been told what had happened to their applications, the report said

Thirty hunger strikers had been taken to hospital and were entering a danger phase where permanent damage could set in, the report said

Long-term hunger strikers in Johannesburg Hospital are expected to know by the end of the week whether an indemnity committee has granted their release as political prisoners

The nine men, who are extremely weak and deteriorating steadily after at least a month without food, began their fast in Johannesburg's Diepkloof Prison

46 hunger strikers suspend fast — HRC

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Star 5/6/91

Staff Reporters

Forty-six hunger strikers have suspended their fast, leaving 40 prisoners nationwide who are still refusing to take food, the Human Rights Commission (HRC) said yesterday.

The biggest suspension was reported from Leeuwkop prison, where 32 broke their fast. According to the HRC report, six prisoners at Westville prison suspended their hunger strike after being misinformed by authorities that the protest had been called off nationally.

Six awaiting-trial prisoners in Klerksdorp suspended their strike after being told that their applications for release had been received by the Indemnity Office.

In all, 30 hunger strikers had been admitted to hospital. They were entering a "danger phase" where permanent damage could set in, the report said.

Long-term hunger strikers in Johannesburg Hospital are expected to know by the end of the week whether an indemnity committee has granted their release as political prisoners.

The nine men, who are extremely weak and deteriorating steadily after at least a month without food, began their fast in Diepkloof Prison. Three of them — Jabu Masina, Ting Ting Ma-

sango and Neo Potsane — have been on strike for 35 days.

The other six, all members of the National Union of Metalworkers of SA and awaiting trial on murder charges, began fasting a month ago.

By yesterday afternoon about half of the group were back on drips, visitors reported.

Numsa president Moses Mayekiso said he had been informed by the office of the Minister of Justice that the outcome of the Numsa six application for indemnity would be heard soon and "we will get an answer by the end of the week".

Murder

The Star is reliably informed that attorneys for Masina, Masango and Potsane, Umkhonto we Sizwe members who were convicted of murder in the "Delmas 2" trial, will be making representations to an indemnity committee later this week for their clients' release.

The three men won their appeal against the death sentence last year largely because it was accepted that their background as trained soldiers had shaped their approach to violence.

The South African Council of Churches yesterday urged the Government to "take action before it was too late" after its members visited the men.

"The situation is now so criti-

cal that some of the prisoners may not survive if the Government continues to delay in releasing the prisoners."

The Department of Correctional Services and the HRC yesterday almost reached parity in their figures on the number of political prisoners on hunger strike countrywide.

After weeks at loggerheads over the definition of political prisoners, and over the number of them on hunger strike, the Government department said there were 43 political prisoners on hunger strike by yesterday afternoon while the HRC said it knew of 40.

The HRC said on Sunday that 86 political prisoners were on hunger strike but has since received information that 46 had suspended their action.

A spokesman for the HRC said it was difficult to keep track of hunger strikers since many suspended their strikes without the commission knowing, and the organisation relied on information from family and other hunger strikers.

● The eastern Transvaal region of the ANC has called for a consumer boycott, beginning today, to force the Government to release political prisoners on hunger strike.

Towns affected by the boycott include Nelspruit, Witbank, Middelburg, Bethal, White River and Barberton.

Minister, lawyer in war of words

ET 5/6/91 Staff Reporter

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A "DISRUPTIVE influence purporting to act as a legal adviser" had been encouraging prisoners to continue with their hunger strike, Minister of Justice Mr Kobie Coetsee charged yesterday. The hunger strikers' legal representative, Mr Willie Hofmeyr, hit back last night, charging that the government had "breached an agreement".

Speaking in a mini-debate in the House of Assembly, Mr Coetsee said "every possible step to terminate the hunger strike" had been taken.

"Unfortunately there are also those who encourage prisoners to undertake dangerous and irresponsible action and to continue with the hunger strike," he said, adding that the legal adviser was one of them. He did not name the person.

Mr Hofmeyr said the major reason why the hunger strikers were still in prison was that the government had agreed that the indemnity committees would have completed their work by April 30, but had "breached this agreement" by only formally constituting the committees on April 24.

ANC calls for boycott in support of prisoners

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WILSON ZWANE

THE ANC has called for an indefinite boycott of white-owned businesses in the eastern Transvaal in solidarity with prisoners particularly those on hunger strike

Addressing a media briefing yesterday the ANC's eastern Transvaal branch publicity secretary Jackson Mthembu said the consumer boycott would begin today and would affect 30 towns in the region, including Barberton and Bethal

"The boycott will go on until all prisoners presently on hunger strike at the Barberton and Bethal hospitals are released," Mthembu said

He said the protest action would be effective as the ANC enjoyed "massive" support in the region

He said the ANC had held talks with hunger-striking prisoners dur-

ing which "it was recommended that they suspend their protest action because the entire region is now joining the battle to ensure their release"

One hunger striker was being held at Witbank Prison and 12 at Bethal Hospital. One hunger striker, Absalom Mdluli, was released from Barberton Hospital on Monday, leaving six other hunger strikers in that hospital, Mthembu said

Refusal

A Correctional Services Department spokesman confirmed that Mdluli had been released

The Human Rights Commission (HRC) said in a statement that 40 prisoners were still on hunger strike, 25 of who began their 35th day of

hunger striking yesterday. ANC spokesman Patrick "Terror" Lekota said government's refusal to release "genuine political prisoners" was an indication that it was not committed to the establishment of a democratic order

"How does the government hope to create a climate conducive to a negotiated settlement if it refuses to release people who have been convicted of politically motivated crimes?"

He added that government's approach to the whole issue of political prisoners was arbitrary

Wits Medical School professor Dr John Kalk said 10 prisoners on hunger strike at the Johannesburg Hospital were in a bad condition and some of them had lost up to 20% of their body weight

"Kidneys of all prisoners are in an unstable condition," Kalk said.

Rudolph under suspicion of Removal of...

Indemnity for Death Row prisoners?

Soult 6/6-12/6/91
THE 10 remaining political prisoners on Death Row are pinning their hopes for freedom on indemnity applications to be heard in the next few weeks

Members of the "Uppington 25" were the latest group to be released from Pretoria Central Prison when the Bloemfontein Appeal Court last week overturned their convictions and murder sentences

The remaining political prisoners, several of whom are members of Umkhonto weSizwe, have had their applications for release turned down by the government.

Their cases have now been referred to a indemnity committee which is expected to review their positions in

the next few weeks.

It is understood that the group, who believe that the ANC should be doing much more to secure their release, are considering embarking on hunger strike if they are not freed soon

The ANC could not be reached for comment

Political prisoners on Death Row include

Mthetheleli Mncube (MK), Mzondeleli Nondula (MK), Jerry Molobeng, Israel Machasa, Johannes Mono, Mkhusehli Mdepha, Peter Mandyoli, Mzimeni Danster, Monwabisi Khundulu (all three members of Cradock Youth Congress), Mbokeli Mavela and Oupa Seheri (MK)

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Mandela calls on prisoners to stop fasting

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Staff Reporter ARGUS 6/6/91

MR Nelson Mandela has called on hunger-striking prisoners to stop fasting

He has also condemned the government for its "violation of agreements solemnly entered into" and has spoken of his concern at "the callous lack of concern for human life" by the government since the hunger strike began on May 1

More than 100 people have fasted for varying periods during the strike

Mr Mandela said today the ANC believed the hunger strikers had made their point that all political prisoners must be released immediately and unconditionally

"We have insisted that this must be done. Our movement and people require the hunger strikers as active participants in the struggle to transform our country into a non-racial democracy

"For this reason we appeal to all our comrades to terminate the hunger strike so that none of them dies or suffers permanent health damage

"At the same time we repeat our call to the millions of our people themselves to join the mass campaign for the release of all political prisoners and for the full and speedy implementation of all agreements reached between ourselves and the government."

Mr Mandela saluted the hunger strikers' courage "We pay homage to them for their demonstration of their willingness to sacrifice everything for the liberation of their country and people"

● The Argus Political Staff reports that Mr Mandela's trip to Moscow is off for now. ANC spokesman Mr Saki Macozoma said the date on which the ANC deputy president wanted to visit the Soviet capital was not mutually acceptable

Hint of end to hunger strikes

ABUJA (Nigeria) — It was almost possible, political prisoners on hunger strike would end their fast in the next few days, Thabo Mbeki, ANC director of international affairs, told a press conference in Abuja yesterday.

Mr Mbeki said the prisoners would start eating because "the regime had got the message".

Prisoners have been on hunger strike since the beginning of May in an attempt to force the Government to abide by agreements reached with the ANC, and to release them.

Mr Mbeki told journalists Nelson Mandela spoke to Government officials just before he left for Nigeria and he was hopeful the matter would be resolved soon. He did not say whether the prisoners would be released.

He said all prisoners should have been freed by the end of April. Many were released between the end of April and early May.

Mr Mbeki, who was standing in for Mr Mandela, vigorously defended the ANC's decision not to interfere with the trial of Winnie Mandela.

He was asked repeatedly how he could expect justice from South African courts which have been used to enforce apartheid legislation all these years.

He replied that SA courts may not be impartial — "there's not a single black judge, for instance" — but it was important to respect the principle of an independent judiciary because "enemies of the ANC" were already saying there would not be an independent judiciary if and when the organisation took the reins of power.

Also many anti-apartheid activists, including Winnie Mandela herself, had appeared on political offences and had been acquitted.

Where is the National Party's Spirit of reconciliation?

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THE release of political prisoners has become one of the most disputed issues of the day. Hundreds of political prisoners have now gone into its sixth week, to win their release.

Instead of the releases being an exercise in reconciliation the issue is creating great bitterness. Instead of building the trust that will be necessary to negotiate a new future, it is fast undermining the confidence of ordinary people in the trustworthiness of the government.

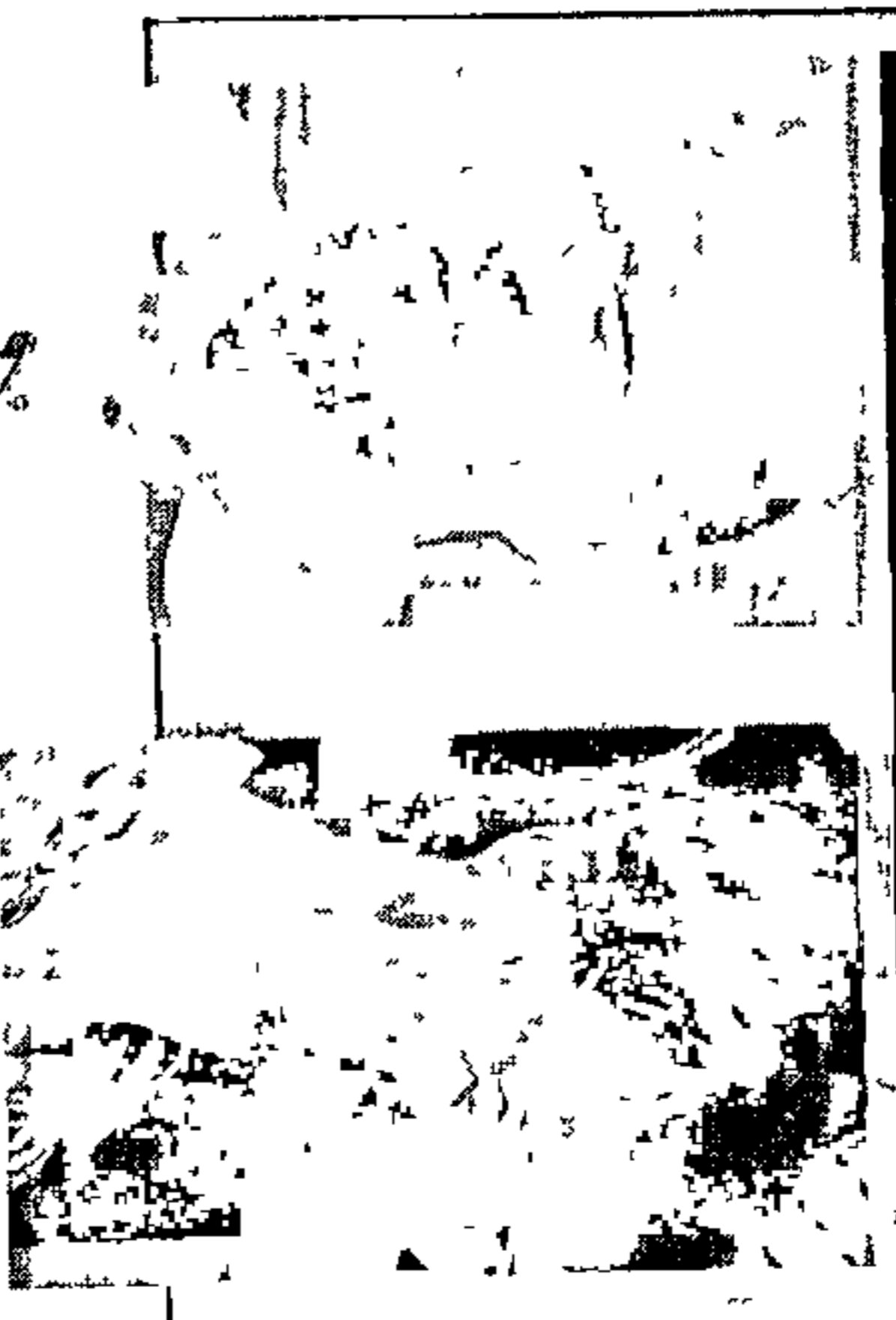
What is it that has gone wrong in the process? To understand why it is that prisoners have been driven to such desperate acts, we need to look at the background to the release process.

The government has engaged in a propaganda war to blame the ANC for the delay in releasing political prisoners. It has even on occasion gone as far as to suggest that this has been done deliberately to slow down the peace process.

Individual basis

The Pretoria agreement between the government and the ANC stated that "Indemnity which can be dealt with in categories of persons and not on an individual basis will be granted as from October 1, 1990. This process will be completed not later than the end of 1990."

In all cases where the body or bodies to be constituted according to paragraph 8.2 of the report of the Working Group (the Indemnity Committees) will have to consider cases on an individual basis, the process will be expedited as much as possible. It is hoped that this process will be completed within six months, but the latest date envisaged for the completion of the total task in terms



TREVOR MANUEL

WILLIE HOFMEYR

of the report of the Working Group is not later than April 30, 1990."

It is clear that the target date for completion was "within six months" and that April 30 is not a "target" date as the government now insists, but an actual deadline. We submit that it is the government who is responsible for the delay in the process for the following reasons:

1. It is clear that the categories for release were supposed to be established from October 1, 1990, and completed by the end of 1990.

A major factor contributing to the delay is the fact that the first category was announced only on December 18, 1990, and the last category on April 24, only six days before the deadline. As a result, the prisoners were still being released in terms of these categories after April 30, thus delaying the whole process.

The remaining Robben Island prisoners all applied for their release in January of this year. Even if the government disagreed with their status, there is simply no reason why their applications could not have been processed by April 30.

3. The breach of the Pretoria agreement is even more stark in the case of the prisoners on death row. The government decided unilaterally that their applications will not even be considered. It insists that their appeals must first be completed and that the review panel that is considering death penalties imposed before last year, must first complete its work.

The death row prisoners applied for their release in December 1990. Nowhere in the Pretoria agreement is there anything which allows the government to ignore the application for release. It is simply a unilateral and blatant breach of the agreement made by the government.

4. The delays have been aggravated by the fact that the regulations governing the operation of the committees were made unilaterally by the government with the ANC. The ANC nominees are concerned particularly about the secret provisions. In effect they have to participate in secret trials, and they would not be able to say in public or private that they disagreed with the verdict. This is clearly an untenable situation.

No reason

The delay in setting up the mechanism to deal with disputed cases has been the major reason for the fact that there are still many political prisoners in jail after April 30, despite the fact that they applied timeously for their release. It is also a clear breach of the agreement that the government made with the ANC

This appears to indicate a lack of good faith on the part of the government, and is clearly against the spirit of the agreement.

As a result, the entire process is becoming unworkable because of the volume of cases being referred. Lawyers for Human Rights estimates that it could take about a year to process the present volume of cases. Clearly this is simply not acceptable when the government had agreed to complete the process by April 30.

An example is the case of Rafiq Rohan who was released only after a desperate 21-day hunger strike. He was a member of the ANC's military wing and had been convicted of three bomb attacks on military and police headquarters in which no significant injuries were received. He is clearly a political prisoner and there is nothing "difficult" about his case.

The above is not to deny that many applications were submitted late by individual prisoners and nobody suggests that the government can process applications submitted after April 30 before that date. However, the main point is surely that the government has not implemented the agreement where it had ample time to do so, for example for the Robben Island and death row prisoners. To date, only a handful of disputed cases have gone through the entire process.

The government has tried to make capital out of the fact that the ANC is supposed to have submitted to it a list of political prisoners, and that somehow the fact that this was done at a late stage has delayed the process of releasing political prisoners.

Cavalier attitude

This is simply incorrect. The only purpose of the list was to establish an estimate of the total

number of political prisoners. Since the government insists that all the prisoners must apply individually for their release, providing a list could not have speeded up the process in any way. In any event, the government already had a list compiled by Lawyers for Human Rights who had indicated that their list was the same as the one from which the ANC was working.

The factor that causes one perhaps the greatest concern is the cavalier attitude of the government towards solemn agreements that it has negotiated. The lack of urgency with which the government is tackling the above problems, and the lack of concern it shows about deviating from agreements, must place a question mark over its commitment to the entire peace process.

Equally worrying has been the attitude of the media who appear to be so enamoured with President De Klerk that the implications spell out above somehow appear to escape all editorial comment.

The ANC has stated that the only way forward out of the present deadlock is that a general amnesty for political prisoners should be declared in line with the experience in other countries, and that dispute resolving procedures should apply only to genuinely difficult cases. This call has been supported by Archbishop Tutu and many others.

If we want to create a new South Africa, we will have to begin with a spirit of reconciliation. In all wars there are those who do terrible things in the heat of battle. We will have to forgive the terrible things done in the name of apartheid, from the forced removals that destroyed the lives of so many people to the death squads operated by the State. We will also have to forgive those who committed violent deeds in the furtherance of the struggle against apartheid. Unless we do so, our progress to a new South Africa will start with a legacy of bitterness and recriminations that will undermine the process from the outset.

Trevor Manuel is publicity secretary of the ANC's Western Cape region. Willie Hofmeyr is a Cape Town attorney.

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Concern mounts for hunger strikers

South 6/6-12/6/91.
CONCERN is mounting that political prisoners will suffer permanent organ failure if they continue their protest

The hunger strike entered its second month this week with 30 political prisoners hospitalised. Twenty-six others have refused meals for more than a month.

Human rights monitors warned this week that the medical implications for people on hunger strike for more than 35 days were unknown as no other hunger strike in South Africa had lasted that long.

"However, drawing on research from other countries, medical experts expect that acute neurological syndrome could result," they said.

Symptoms of this condition are loss of coordination and double vision. Damage can be caused to the brain as a result.

The HRC also warned that between the 30th and 35th day of the hunger strike, the men will have lost between 18 and 20 percent of their body weight and become "unstable and vulnerable". Some will be unable to drink.

The protestors will also be dizzy because of low blood pressure and

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will be very cold as their body temperature would have dropped by two degrees.

At this stage, their kidneys would be functioning abnormally and some may suffer irreversible kidney damage.

Some would have to be placed on drips because of a sodium imbalance and while they will remain fully conscious, they will have difficulty concentrating.

Hunger strikers who have commenced eating now will develop Wernicke's Encephalopathy, a brain dysfunction that will take months to resolve.

Prisoners at the Johannesburg Hospital and St Aidans Hospital in Durban have sent out letters saying they are determined to continue the hunger strike.

The hunger strikers at St Aidans Hospital told their relatives not to "be sad" because of their poor health.

"It is part of the struggle. There is no easy way to struggle," they said.

The Western Cape hunger strike support committee has organised another march to parliament on Friday, starting at noon on the Grand Parade.

'Ja, Evelina de Bruin, you are now in Pretoria'

South 6/6-12/6/91.

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EVELINA DE BRUIN has a way of telling her story of the "living death" on death row. She and her husband, Gideon Madlongolwane, were sentenced to death for the killing of a policeman in Uppington's small black township of Paballelo in 1985.

Recently the Appeal Court overturned the verdict of Mr Justice Basson who had employed the controversial common purpose doctrine and the couple were given suspended sentences of two and one years respectively — for public violence and not murder.

Wrapped in a royal blue and white woollen blanket which she crocheted on death row, she spoke angrily about being taken away from her 10 children and six grandchildren for almost three years.

"What is so good is that these last days I could sleep without pills. If I did not take the sleeping pills in jail, I would sit awake until the next morning and not feel sleepy. The worry kept me wide awake. I worried about the children, specially my little baby, Adelaide. She is only 13.

"The loneliness in the cells hurt me more than anything. Sometimes visitors came and they were turned away. Unless we knew the full name of everyone wanting to visit us, they were sent back home. Sometimes there were people from Uppington who we knew only by their nicknames or sometimes there were people from the ANC that we did not know. It was cruel to be so lonely and know that someone could not come to see me because I could not say exactly who they were. I would just be sitting there from morning till night — waiting.

"One day the warders told me to

Grandmother Mrs Evelina de Bruin walked from death row last week after her conviction with 25 others for the murder of a policeman in Uppington, was set aside. She told her story to SYLVIA VOLLENHOVEN



WHERE THEY BELONG. Evelina de Bruin and Gideon Madlongolwane back at their Paballelo home

crochet. I said I did not know how to do this. They sent a black sergeant to teach me and then whenever I had some money I would buy wool.

"I did not want to think too much. Some days you could think about the same things for hours without coming to any conclusion. So many thoughts came through your head and they made little sense.

"It could happen that many hours went by and I could not recall what it was that had been going through my head. I talked to God a lot. Some days

I believed he would get me out of there. Other days I wished they could just hang us and finish it all.

"I remember Judge Basson walking into the court when he sentenced us that morning. But I don't know what happened to me that day.

"He said we could speak before sentence was passed and I told the interpreter that I was glad the trial was over. Then I saw the judge walking out of court. Suddenly everyone was talking. I did not know what was supposed to happen now. I had not

heard Judge Basson's sentence. I don't know why.

"I saw people crying in the court and I asked myself what they had heard that I did not hear. My youngest sister had a heart attack and had to be taken to hospital. When I was taken back to jail I was in a different cell, on my own. I wondered why I had been separated from the young women in the other cell. Nobody talked to me. A doctor came to examine me and I thought it was strange — I had not complained of being ill.

"There were guards in my cell the whole night but still nobody told me anything.

"I couldn't bring myself to ask any questions. In the early hours of the morning the guards told me to get up and get dressed.

"Some female warders and a captain told me to get into a big prison lorry. We drove for hours. I asked myself what was happening here. At Kuruman somebody gave me a blanket. When we finally stopped they had to lift me out of the lorry because I could not move. My legs and my feet were swollen. I was so cold.

"They helped me into a prison and a white officer asked if I knew where I was. I said no. 'Ja, Evelina de Bruin, you are now in Pretoria,' he said. They tried to give me food but it made me sick. I asked the white man what I was doing there. He took a pile of papers and told me to listen carefully because these were the papers that came from Justice Basson in Uppington.

THE POLICEMAN SAID 'Look Evelina, it says here that you have been sentenced to death.' That made me cross. I told them they could have said this straight to my face long before.

"They were shocked when I said that. Then I told them to listen carefully. I said they should understand that I would be going home eventually. I told them to show me to my sleeping place and give me pills for the pain which was now getting on top of me. 'Ouma,' said the policeman, 'you are strong.'

"In my cell I asked myself why my people hadn't told me. This was why my sisters and my daughter were crying, I realised.

"Next day the prison doctor came to give me medicine for the high blood, arthritis and stomach nerves.

"There were two other women on death row. One left because her sentence was changed to 15 years. The other one was hanged. The night before, they gave her chicken to eat but she said we could have it because she did not feel like eating before she went home. That was the way she put it, "going home."

"In the last few months I was very depressed. I started thinking that they should just hang us. I felt like an ornament that had been forgotten on a shelf.

"It was like living death. It will take a long time to put all this to one side. When I asked Madlongolwane what had been the worst part of the months on death row he said it was the silence at night. From 8pm until 7 the next morning there had to be absolute silence in the cells.

"All you heard was the sound of the warders walking down the corridors and they walked so quietly. At Christmas we had something to do at least. We made artificial flowers from the toilet paper and old newspapers to decorate our cells."

Madlongolwane says he has two priorities now that he is free. He will collect his pension from Spoomet in Uppington where he worked for 27 years and he will join the African National Congress.

"We never knew anything about politics but now I want to join the ANC," he said.



Indemnity for Death Row prisoners?

South 6/6-12/6/71
THE 10 remaining political prisoners on Death Row are pinning their hopes for freedom on indemnity applications to be heard in the next few weeks.

Members of the "Uppington 25" were the latest group to be released from Pretoria Central Prison when the Bloemfontein Appeal Court last week overturned their convictions and murder sentences.

The remaining political prisoners, several of whom are members of Umkhonto weSizwe, have had their applications for release turned down by the government.

Their cases have now been referred to a indemnity committee which is expected to review their positions in

the next few weeks

It is understood that the group, who believe that the ANC should be doing much more to secure their release, are considering embarking on hunger strike if they are not freed soon.

The ANC could not be reached for comment.

Political prisoners on Death Row include

Mthetheleli Mncube (MK), Mzondeleli Nondula (MK), Jerry Molobeng, Israel Machasa, Johannes Mono, Mkhusele Mdepha, Peter Mandyoli, Mzimeni Danster, Monwabisi Khundulu (all three members of Cradock Youth Congress), Mbokeli Mavela and Oupa Sehen (MK)

Peace group aims for quick results

TIM COHEN

THE committee established to bring together SA leaders to discuss violence and intimidation aimed to complete its work in weeks rather than months, committee member Louw Alberts said yesterday

Eleven church and business leaders have been appointed to the group as facilitators to hold discussions with political groups and interested parties

The group includes Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Rev Frank Chikane, Bobby Godsell and John Hall, all of whom will be acting in their personal capacities

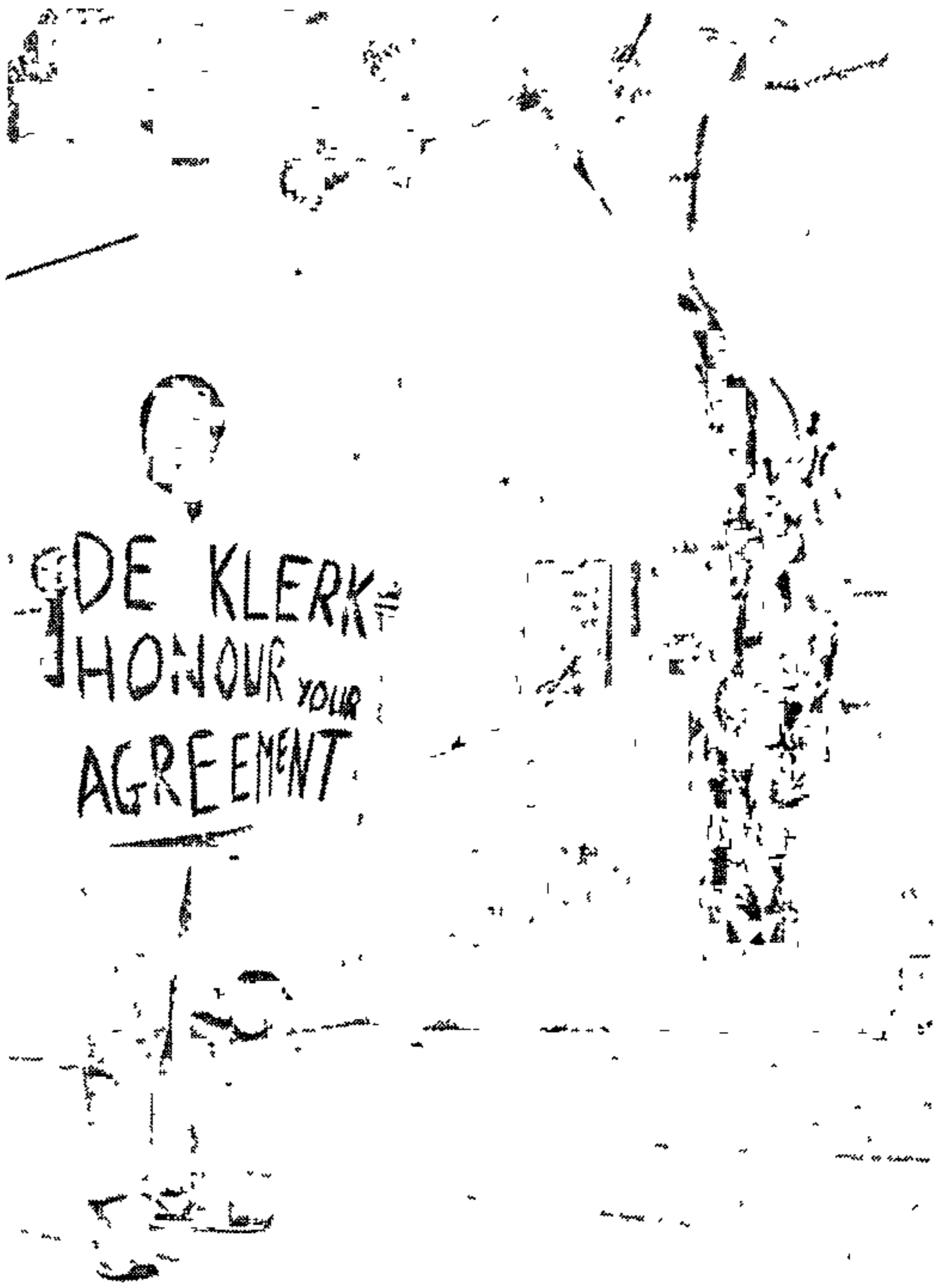
There is one outstanding post on the group, which has been reserved for someone from business, probably black and possibly a woman

Alberts declined to comment on the group's plans because of the sensitivity of the issue, but said it would act as a low-profile catalyst to bring leaders together to discuss violence

Although Alberts was mandated by the government-initiated conference to form the group, the group has decided that it should have a rotating chairman *B/Dam 6/6/91*

Whether the leaders will be brought together with the intention of holding another peace summit, similar to that hosted by government recently, is not clear

Alberts has said previously that the leaders would be brought together to create a "mechanism" of some kind, still to be decided on, to deal with violence



At a picket outside Wits University yesterday, held in solidarity with hunger-striking prisoners, protesters burnt a banner saying "Destroy the myth of De Klerk's new SA".

Picture ROBERT BOTHA

Lawyers slate Coetsee claims on prisoners

JUSTICE Minister Kobie Coetsee yesterday came under fire from lawyers who strongly disputed his statement that all political prisoners had been released

Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) national director Brian Currin said in a statement the minister's inference that all prisoners who committed murder, rape or robbery were common law criminals and not political prisoners, was simplistic, misleading and counter productive

"As an organisation we are presently preparing representations to the Indemnity Committee on behalf of prisoners serving sentences for politically motivated murder. Must we assume, from the Minister's statement, that their cases have already been decided and that we are merely going through the motions?" Currin asked

Hunger strike committee lawyer Willie Hofmeyr said Coetsee's private views on whether certain prisoners were political prisoners were irrelevant as indemnity committees had been set up to decide on disputed cases

Hofmeyr said three prisoners — Isaac Mabaso, Johnson Lubisi and Douglas Tyutyu — were convicted and sentenced under

the Internal Security Act and yet remained in prison "All three were members of the military wing of the ANC and were acting on orders at the time (of their offences)"

Richard Spoor of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers (Nadel) said Coetsee's "insinuation" cast doubt on government's commitment to release political prisoners

Human rights campaigner Max Coleman said there were 31 prisoners on hunger strike — 14 of those on the 36th day of their strike. He said he was extremely disturbed by Coetsee's comments

No comment could be obtained from the Justice Department but a Correctional Services spokesman said there were 37 prisoners on hunger strike

Meanwhile, six prisoners at Barberton Hospital suspended a hunger strike after the ANC recommended they do so as their cause had been joined by the entire region, the Human Rights Commission said

And an indefinite boycott of white-owned businesses in about 30 eastern Transvaal towns began yesterday

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Coetsee answers challenge on 3 prisoners

Staff Reporters

16/11/91

Government claims that all political prisoners have been released have been challenged by lawyer Willie Hofmeyr and the National Association of Democratic Lawyers (Nadel). This followed Minister of Justice, Kobie Coetsee's rejection of the plea by former Detainees Aid Centre executive Audrey Coleman to publish the names and crimes of prisoners claiming political indemnity. Last night a statement from

the Justice Ministry said Mr Coetsee did not enter into public debate on the Government's agreements with the ANC.

Mr Hofmeyr said the main issue was that Mr Coetsee had broken faith with his agreement that indemnity committees would complete their work by April 30. He added: "The Government breached this agreement by only formally constituting the committees on April 24, which made it impossible to complete their work." He named three prisoners,

and called on the Minister to deny that they had been convicted of political offences.

There are: Isaac Mabaso, who was sentenced under the Internal Security Act; Johnson Lubisi, who was being held in Valenberg mental hospital after being convicted of treason, and Douglas Tyutyu (56), who was serving a sentence for treason, having completed five years for murder.

The Justice Ministry's reply said Mabaso was serving a sentence for detonating a bomb in

a building, injuring 15 people, of whom 11 were civilians, and seriously injuring one. This had "clearly" placed his case beyond the agreed guidelines.

Lubisi had been certified in terms of the Mental Health Act and was not subject to the provisions of the Prisons Act.

Tyutyu, it said, had been convicted of murder, while his co-accused's conviction was set aside on appeal. Therefore the cases were not comparable.

● Lives on the line — Page 12

MICHAEL MORRIS, the Political Correspondent of The Argus, was among a group of South African and foreign journalists on an historic visit behind the bars on Robben Island yesterday. He was accompanied by Argus photographer **ANDREW INGRAM**.



SINGLE CELLS: Nelson Mandela's Robben Island cell, first on the right, is one of 30 in the now deserted B section of the maximum security prison.

In Mandela's shadow

ONCE apartheid's Alcatraz, and the object of decades of international diplomacy and protest, the Robben Island maximum security prison seems, today, a forlorn and empty hulk of the past.

It no longer teems with the political leaders whose incarceration mantled it with infamy, it is no longer abuzz with the polemics of revolt, or even the commonplace chit-chat of wistful men behind bars.

For many today it is a symbol of courage, of irrepressible hope. For others, surely, a symbol of history's predestination.

Walking through its grimly silent, gleaming corridors yesterday, I found the most compelling impression to be a haunting sense of a mistaken past.

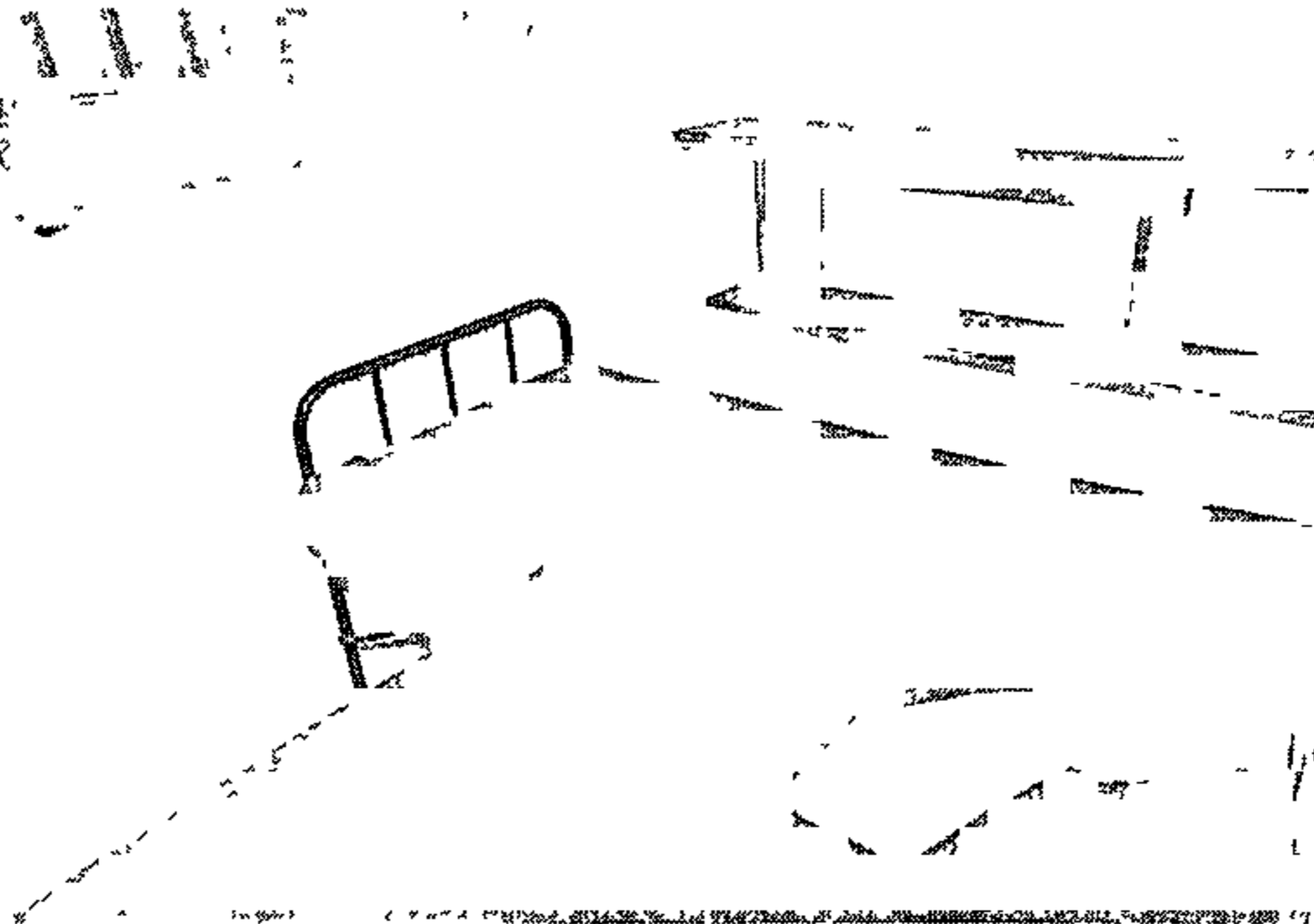
It was so patently incongruous, standing at the grille door of the slightly more than two metre square cell 8 in B section — one of three sections of single cells — to consider that Mr Nelson Mandela should have been its occupant for so many years on the strength of political commitments that now make him one of the most important figures in South Africa's future.

The first political prisoners arrived on the island in 1962, but the maximum security section was erected a year later. Built mostly of the same Robben Island stone Van Riebeeck used to build the Castle, the prison has the sombre appearance of a deserted army barracks.

Mr Mandela arrived here in 1964. He stayed 19 years.

His first, bitterly hard decade of quarry-digging on the island was all but forgotten during yesterday's guided tour by the Department of Correctional Services.

Senior officers told the journalists they had no first-hand knowledge of what life was like in the prison in the early years. It is not clear which cell he was kept in then, what his and his peers' daily routine, or meals, were and whether they were allowed any of the privileges that came later.



MANDELA SLEPT HERE: For years, Mr Mandela used this bed in his small sparsely furnished single cell — cell No 8 in B block.

Mr Mandela himself recalls working in a lime quarry from 7am to 4pm, with a one-hour break, wearing only shorts and sandals with no socks or underwear and just a calico jacket. Solitary confinement awaited those thought to be slacking.

Hard labour was stopped in 1979, and the 1980s heralded a more tolerant approach in the prison.

It was during this time that Mr Mandela is known to have occupied cell 8 in B section. There are 29 virtually identical cells in the section.

Each cell entrance has two doors: an ordinary wooden one facing on to the corridor and, immediately behind it, a heavy grille door.

There is a bed with battleship grey sheets and pillow, a darker blanket and a bright blue towel, folded and tucked neatly over the bottom end.

Above the bed is a simple wooden shelf (two shelves in Mandela's cell) and two or three small eye-level cupboards on the opposite wall. The smooth concrete floor is polished to a

sheen. There is a single fluorescent tube light attached to the ceiling.

There are two steel-framed windows, heavily barred, but no curtains. The smaller window faces on to the corridor, the other on to an outdoor tennis court, bare except for four small trees and a vine at the far end. The court, the exercise yard for B Section, is enclosed by high walls. Along one side is a semi-enclosed walk for guards — not used for several years. Square stone watch towers and a high barbed fence surround the sports ground and other open areas.

Mr Mandela, and others who studied, also had a table and chair in their cells. These have since been removed.

On the wall next to the door is a solid metal speaker box for radio broadcasts to the cells. Only FM listening was allowed. It could not be switched off or turned down from the cells, but the prisoners' recreation committee could ask for a channel switch or for the radio to be turned off. The officers said Mr Mandela and

others had radios — also restricted to FM. Later, television was installed in the recreation room.

In the last few years, the ordinary daily routine began at 7am. Many would go into the court for exercise until breakfast at 8am. Older inmates busied themselves with their ablutions and cleaning their cells.

Breakfast, usually taken in the communal recreation room, comprised porridge and bread, spread with margarine or jam, and coffee. There was sugar and milk to go with the coffee and porridge.

The rest of the day was spent studying, working in the workshops or playing sport. Prisoners could move about freely from cell to cell and could leave the section — for a reason — if accompanied by a warden.

Lunch, a cooked meal of starch, vegetable, protein (such as meat or fish) and tea or coffee with milk and sugar was served between noon and 1pm.

Supper, the light meal of the day was soup, or cold drink, and sandwiches, served between 3pm and 4pm. The cooks were prisoners.

Extra food, such as biscuits and sweets, could be bought from a tuckshop which opened daily. Toiletries and cigarettes were also sold.

"A" group prisoners, the political prisoners, could keep money.

There are oblique clues to the lives prisoners led here: a half-torn supermarket advert pasted on the inside of a cupboard door, a black button, a paper clip and the word "Banga" crudely painted on a letter box in an exercise area.

Numbers have steadily dwindled in the island's maximum security section. In January, there were 200 prisoners. By April 30, only 27. The last handful were brought to the mainland in the past few weeks.

Emerging, free, from the grey, heavy steel gate, prisoners would have had their first glimpse of the sea. There are no sea views from within, but, in what must have been a constant torment of sorts, its sound hisses incessantly in the gaol.

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Mandela's island cell swings open

By Shaun Johnson
Political Staff

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CAPE TOWN — The door of Nelson Mandela's old cell swung open yesterday as the Government allowed the media access to Robben Island's now-deserted maximum security prison

The cell, one of 30 single units in the prison's famous Section B — which housed most of the important ANC leaders — is 2½ paces deep and three paces wide.

It is heavily barred, with a window looking on to an exercise courtyard surrounded by a wall more than three metres high

It is painted in institutional gloss cream and is lit by a single fluorescent lamp.

The island's maximum-security prison has been empty



Deserted . . . Nelson Mandela's old cell on the island.

since the last eight inmates were transferred to the mainland on May 25, said Brigadier Erika van Zyl of the Department of Correctional Services

It is now being refurbished for use by non-political prisoners — there are still some 200 in the island's separate

medium-security institution — and yesterday's media visit was part of an attempt to "make Robben Island more accessible to South Africans"

The island, 11 km from Cape Town, also contains important nature conservation areas

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Accord on guidelines for hunger strikers

By Abel Mushi

253

The Government has reached a provisional agreement with health workers' organisations, the ANC and the Human Rights Commission (HRC) on a set of guidelines for the treatment of hunger strikers.

The agreement, drafted in Pretoria on Wednesday and released yesterday, was referred to as a "landmark achievement" by the parties involved.

Participants included the Departments of Justice, Law and Order and Correctional Services; the SA Health Workers' Congress (Sahwco); the National Medical and Dental Association, the ANC and HRC.

Sahwco publicity secretary Dr Aslam Dasoo said he was confident the proposals, which form the basis of internationally accepted protocols governing the handling of hunger strikers, would be implemented as soon as possible.

The proposals include:

- Anyone who has been on hunger strike for longer than two weeks, or who has lost 10 percent body weight, must be admitted to non-prison hospitals
- No medical personnel may apply pressure of any sort on the hunger striker to suspend his fast, and no force feeding.
- Medical care must be rendered unconditionally
- The right to an independent second professional opinion.
- Hunger strikers should be encouraged to make a living will stating their wishes with regard to treatment once they are unable to make such decisions.
- They must be informed of their rights, the ethical issues binding doctors and the mechanisms for making complaints
- An obligation to transfer hunger strikers to appropriate facilities when weight loss exceeds 15 percent.
- If any hunger striker refuses treatment, the HRC must be informed immediately.

Jo-Anne Collinge looks at 3 hunger strikers

Prepared to die for their freedom

8/16/91
THREE men who spent more than a year on Death Row before winning their appeal against the death sentence have purposely put their lives on the line again in an indefinite hunger strike aimed at securing their freedom.

They are Umkhonto we Sizwe members Jabu Masina (40) and Neo Potsane (30) of Soweto, and TingTing Masango (32) of Mamelodi who began fasting on May 2 because they believe they are entitled to release as political prisoners.

They want the Government to recognise what the Appeal Court already has — that when they killed four people between 1978 and 1986 they did so in terms of ANC policy as Umkhonto we Sizwe soldiers whose attitudes to assassination had been critically shaped by political and military training received in ANC camps.

This recognition should suffice to secure their release as political prisoners in terms of the agreements between the ANC and the Government.

Collectively Masina, Masango and Potsane were responsible for the deaths of Sergeant Orphan "Hlubi" Chaphi, billed in the press as the "most feared policeman in Soweto" in the period around 1976, Constable Sinki Vuma of Mamelodi; David Lukhele, who campaigned for kaNgwane to be made part of Swaziland, and Elizabeth Dlodlu, who was killed accidentally during the attack on Mr Lukhele.

The successful appeal of the three was a landmark — the first case heard under the amended Criminal Procedure Act which gave the Bench greater latitude to decide whether death was the only appropriate sentence.

There were other features in the trial of the group which made it unique and ultra-political.

The first of these was their steadfast insistence that, as members of Umkhonto we Sizwe, they should be treated as prisoners of war.

As a result, they refused to enter a plea, to engage counsel to cross-examine State witnesses and they mounted no defence.

In a statement read by Masina at the outset of the trial in 1989, they declared "We as members of Umkhonto we Sizwe are involved in a war of national liberation. We, as soldiers, cannot and should not stand trial in a civilian court."

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They stated their political motives — "to rid this country of a system which is evil and which degrades and dehumanises people on the basis of the colour of their skin".

Masina, Masango and Potsane were convicted of murder and attempted murder. Their co-trialist Joseph Makhura was convicted on multiple counts of attempted murder.

In an unprecedented step, Mr Justice M C de Klerk allowed the family to instruct lawyers to lead evidence in mitigation of sentence.

The judgment was, likewise, a benchmark. Mr Justice de Klerk accepted there were mitigating factors which related intrinsically to the trialists' MK training and its capacity to alter the moral framework they applied to killing. But the two assessors thought otherwise — and the judge was forced to impose the death penalty against his own judgment.

The view expressed by Mr Justice de Klerk was nonetheless hailed by human rights lawyers as the first to take full account of the fact that South Africa was in a state of civil war.

Mr Justice de Klerk was vindicated in the Appeal Court, where the Bench adopted his approach and substituted 25-year jail terms for death.

But this most political of trials has not resulted in rapid recognition of the trialists as political prisoners. Of the four, only Joseph Makhura has been freed under the ANC/Government agreement.

The joint working group definition of political offences allowed that even serious offences, such as murder, could qualify provided that the motivation, context and actual criminal act were visibly political. Although a later Government proviso linked the release of "serious" offenders to progress made in talks on the finer points of the suspension of ANC armed actions, this obstacle seemed to have been overcome early this year.

Masina, Masango and Potsane were certainly belated applicants for release. But their applications were lodged at least a month ago. They certainly do not represent the group of outright criminals referred to by Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee as opportunists seeking to use the release and indemnity procedures. □

Mandela pleads for end to prison fasts

(253) WILSON ZWANE

ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela yesterday threw his weight behind the calls for hunger-striking prisoners to suspend their fast

In a statement issued by the ANC on his behalf, Mandela said he was convinced the hunger strikers had made it clear to government that all political prisoners should be released. Bloem 7/6/71

Conflicting reports on the number of hunger-striking prisoners range from the 30 of the ANC and Human Rights Commission (HRC) to the Justice Department's 16. The ANC says 14 have been fasting for 37 days, three for 36 days and six for 34 days

Mandela said "Our movement and people require the hunger strikers as active participants in the struggle to transform our country into a non-racial democracy. For this reason, we appeal to all our comrades to terminate the hunger strike so that none of them die or suffer permanent health damage"

He also called on ANC supporters to join a mass action campaign aimed at securing the release of all political prisoners and implementation of all agreements reached between the ANC and government

The ANC eastern Transvaal branch this week called on prisoners at Barberton and Bethal hospitals to suspend their hunger strike as it had launched a consumer boycott of white-owned businesses in the region in a bid to secure their release

□ To Page 2

Mandela Bloem 7/6/71.

Six prisoners at Barberton Hospital had suspended their strike, the HRC said

But 12 prisoners at the Bethal Hospital were among the 30 prisoners who were still on hunger strike yesterday, it said

The Correctional Services Department said yesterday there were only 16 hunger-striking prisoners

Hunger Strike Committee lawyer Willie Hofmeyr said thousands of people were expected to march on Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee's Cape Town offices today to

(253) □ From Page 1

protest against the Minister's statement that all political prisoners had been freed. Sapa reports that SA Health Workers' Congress (Sahwco) spokesman Dr Aslam Dasoo said yesterday medical bodies, the ANC and government departments had agreed on a programme for the care of hunger strikers

With immediate effect, all prisoners who have been on a hunger strike for more than two weeks, or who have lost more than 10% of their body weight, will be taken to hospital



NELSON MANDELA

Stop hunger strikes - Mandela to prisoners

Sowetan

4/6/91

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THE deputy president of the African National Congress, Mr Nelson Mandela, has called on hunger striking prisoners to stop fasting.

Mandela also condemned the Government for its "violation of agreements solemnly entered into" and spoke of his concern at the callous lack of concern for human life.

More than 100 people have

fasted for varying periods since yesterday that the ANC believed the hunger strikers had now made their point - that all political prisoners must be released immediately and unconditionally

"We have insisted that this be done. Our movement and people require the hunger strikers as active participants in the struggle to

transform our country into a non-racial democracy

"For this reason we appeal to all our comrades to terminate the hunger strike so that none of them dies or suffers permanent health damage.

Campaign

"At the same time we repeat our call to our millions of people to join the mass campaign for the

release of all political prisoners and for the full and speedy implementation of all agreements reached between ourselves and the Government"

Mandela praised the hunger strikers' courage "We pay homage to them for the demonstration of their willingness to sacrifice everything for the liberation of their country and people"

- Sowetan Correspondent.

Mandela urges end to prison fast

JOHANNESBURG — ANC deputy president Mr Nelson Mandela, concerned at the deteriorating health of hunger strikers, yesterday appealed to them to end their fast

In a statement he said the ANC was worried that they would die or suffer permanent damage to their health. "We are convinced that the point which the hunger strikers wished to convey to the government and the country has been conveyed. The matter is clearly understood. That all

political prisoners must be released immediately, and unconditionally."

The Human Rights Commission said on Wednesday that 31 prisoners were still not eating. Fourteen had fasted for 36 days.

While urging the prisoners to end the fast, Mr Mandela also praised them for the "courage they have shown" and paid "homage to them for their demonstration in action of their willingness to sacrifice everything for the liberation of their country and people." "They took this action to se-

cure the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners," Mr Mandela said.

Mr Mandela repeated a call "to our people to join the mass campaign for the release of all political prisoners, and for the full and speedy implementation of all agreements reached between ourselves and the government."

The government's failure to release all political prisoners by the end of April was inexcusable, and "in violation of agreements that have solemnly been entered into."

The ANC also expressed "grave concern at the callous lack of concern for human life that it has displayed since the hunger strike began."

"The international community, including many eminent citizens from a number of countries, have already demonstrated their support for our comrades with solidarity fasts."

Mr Mandela called on the international community to show the South African government its attitude was "unacceptable." — Sapa

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CT 7/6/91

Five prisoners suspend hunger strike

253 of 7/6/91

JOHANNESBURG. — Five prisoners have suspended their hunger strike since Wednesday, and the Human Rights Commission has received reports of four more who stopped eating recently.

The Bloemfontein and Eastern Transvaal ANC branches had visited strikers to persuade them to end their fast.

The HRC said 14 of the 30 people still on hunger strikes had not eaten for 37 days.

● It was simply untrue for the Minister of Justice, Mr. Kobie Coetsee, to suggest that all political prisoners had been released, the lawyer representing ex-Robben Island prisoners, Mr. Willie Hofmeyr, said yesterday.

Mr. Coetsee had failed to deal with the real issues, Mr. Hofmeyr said in a statement.

Mr. Hofmeyr said the major reason many political prisoners remained in jail was the government's failure to set up its Indemnity Committee until six days before the agreed April 30 deadline.

He said it was simply untrue that all political prisoners had been released, and only murderers and criminals remained.

“We reject the insinuation that those convicted of murder are automatically criminals.”

“Many of those convicted for murder were soldiers fighting in a war and were simply following orders from their organisations.”

“To suggest that when someone dies in the course of a war it makes the soldiers of

the opposing side into criminals, is simply ludicrous,” Mr. Hofmeyr said.

● For the first time in South Africa, medical bodies, the ANC and government departments have agreed on a programme for the care of hunger strikers, South African Health Workers' Congress (Sahwco) spokesman Dr. Aslam Dasoo said yesterday.

With permanent damage to the health of hunger strikers looming, Sahwco, the National Medical and Dental Association (Nanda), the Medical Association of South Africa (Masa), the Department of Health, Department of Correctional Services, Department of Law and Order and the Department of Justice reached consensus on the proposals in an emergency meeting on Wednesday night — Political Staff and Sapa

Groups join in effort to help hunger strikers

FOR the first time in South Africa, medical bodies, the ANC and Government departments have agreed on a programme for the care of hunger strikers. South African Health Workers Congress (Sahwco) spokesman Dr Aslam Dasoo said yesterday (253)

Barely days before prisoners in their 36th day of a hunger strike begin showing signs of permanent health damage, Sahwco, the National Medical and Dental Association (Namda), the Medical Association of South Africa (Masa), the Department of Health, Department of Correctional Services, Department of Law and Order and the Department of Justice reached consensus on the proposals in an emergency meeting on Wednesday night.

With immediate effect, all hunger strikers who have been on a hunger strike for more than two weeks or who have lost more than 10 percent of their body weight, will be hospitalised. Sowetan 7/6/91

Cases had been reported of prisoners not being hospitalised even though they had not eaten for 36 days and were showing signs of serious health decline. Dr David Green of Namda said these prisoners had been hospitalised since the agreement - Sapa

HUNGER STRIKES

FM 7/6/91 (253)

IN THE BALANCE

What is a political prisoner? Government says a political prisoner cannot be a murderer or rapist, while this week it indemnified a man convicted of housebreaking and robbery

Certainly in terms of guidelines government agreed to with the ANC, a murderer can be classified a political prisoner

There have been so many agreements and government pronouncements on the definition that no official in either government or the ANC seems to be familiar with all the details

Contrary to some government press statements, all those on hunger strike seem to fall under the definitions of political prisoners agreed to by government and the ANC in terms of the Groote Schuur Minute; the Pretoria Minute, and the Plan for the Release of Political Prisoners of September 30 1990

While two of the hunger strikers are also serving sentences for rape, they want their political convictions to be reviewed

All those on hunger strike have applied for release in terms of the regulations; some applied for release as far back as November last year

Government appears to be hoping that no hunger strikers will die before indemnity committees, chaired by four selected judges, meet next week

But, despite strong ANC calls for hunger strikers to end their fast, militant Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) members in Bethal hospital and Johannesburg Hospital — all of whom may qualify as political prisoners — are refusing to suspend their fasts. Prisoners in the Cape who recently suspended their strikes are also considering resuming them — against advice from doctors and their own political organisations

Speaking at an ANC press conference on Monday, ANC official Terror Lekota said the eastern Transvaal region of the ANC would launch a consumer boycott on June 5, demanding the release of political prisoners. He said it was hoped that the 21 remaining hunger strikers in Bethal and Barberton hospitals, and the sole hunger striker in Witbank prison, Charles Sibozza, would give up their hunger strikes

Jackson Mthembu, eastern Transvaal publicity secretary for the ANC, said the 12 hunger strikers in Bethal were convicted of murder after events during the 1987 miners' strike at Matla Colliery. They consider themselves political prisoners because they took part in a strike action, and had followed the calls of political groups during the insurrectionary mid-Eighties

Government has also done little to clarify the issues surrounding indemnification and

release, and its own approach to releases seems haphazard (Only those who committed political crimes before noon on October 8 last year are eligible for consideration)

Nor does there seem to be a uniform approach to leftwing and rightwing political activists. Consider an example this week, a notice published in the *Government Gazette* on Monday, signed by Minister of Justice Kobie Coetsee and State President F W de Klerk, indemnified three white men from charges of sabotage and of possessing explosives. The men are known rightwing activists. A fourth man was indemnified from a charge of housebreaking with intent to steal, and of theft — clearly criminal offences



Lekota . . call for an end to hunger strikes

The Groote Schuur Minute of May last year, while recognising that there is no internationally accepted guideline for political prisoners, sketched these criteria, noting that each case had to be considered on its own merits:

“Certain offences are recognised as ‘purely’ political, for example, directed solely against the State and not including a common or ‘ordinary’ crime such as murder or assault, or the dissemination of subversive literature

“In certain circumstances a ‘common’ crime, even a serious one such as murder, may be regarded as a political offence. The following are the principal factors which are commonly taken into account by rational courts

- The motive of the offender,
- The context in which the offence was committed, especially whether the offence was committed in the course of a popular uprising or disturbance,
- The nature of the political objective,
- The legal and factual nature of the offence, including its gravity (for example, rape could never be regarded as a political offence),
- The object of the offence (whether, for



Coetsee indemnified a housebreaker

example, it was committed against government property or personnel, or directed primarily against private property or individuals),

- The relationship between the offence and the political objective being pursued; and
- The question whether the act was committed in the execution of an order by, or with the approval of, the organisation, institution or body concerned”

Medical experts say that from the 30th day of a hunger strike, irreversible kidney damage and the danger of coma and death becomes likely

As the *FM* went to press, it was not known if any hunger strikers were heeding the ANC appeal.

MK chief of staff Chris Hanu visited some prisons a fortnight ago, recommending to hunger strikers that they allow negotiations for their release to take place, rather than endanger their lives.

Charlene Smith

EDUCATION FM 7/6/91

A GOOD START

As a contribution by the State education establishment to the broader debate, the Education Renewal Strategy (ERS) discussion document released in Cape Town this week is an admirable effort

As reported last month (*FM* May 24), it recommends a major overhaul of the existing race-based system and its replacement with a nonracial system under a single policy-making department and autonomous regional departments

National Education Director-General Johan Garbers stresses that the document is the start of a process rather than the end. He wants it to be seen as a contribution to a debate and not as prescription by State departments

But one aspect in particular is likely to be

Hunger strikers debate whether to end the fast

NEWS that African National Congress deputy president Nelson Mandela had appealed to them to suspend their hunger strike was greeted with a stunned silence by nine inmates of the Johannesburg Hospital yesterday.

The men — three ANC guerrillas and six members of the National Union of Metalworkers (Numsa) convicted of murder and arson — were initially opposed to suspending the strike, but said they would discuss it before deciding whether to continue.

Mandela issued the appeal, saying "the point that the hunger strikers wished to convey to the government and the country has been conveyed". He called on them to terminate their fast so that "none of them dies or suffers permanent damage to his health".

Condemning the government for violating the agreements that it had entered into, Mandela said: "The matter is clearly understood: all political prisoners must be released immediately and unconditionally."

According to the Human Rights Commission, 30 prisoners were still on hunger strike as of yesterday morning — 15 of them for more than 36 days.

One of the nine at Johannesburg Hospital, Neo Potsane, who is serving 25 years for murder and

253 Despite Nelson Mandela's call for hunger strikers to end their fast, some of them are not sure whether they should.

By HUBERT MATLOU

possession of ammunition, said the issue would have to be discussed and a common position would emerge.

Potsane, who entered his 37th day of fasting this morning, had earlier vowed to fast until he was released or died. In an interview with *The Weekly Mail* on Tuesday, he still stood steadfastly by his position.

His mother, Muriel Potsane of Dube, and Joyce Masina of Rockville, yesterday expressed relief at the news of Mandela's intervention. Masina's son, Jabu, also enters his 37th day on hunger strike in the Johannesburg Hospital today.

Simon Potsane, Neo's father, was a prisoner during "Hitler's war" and maintains his son should be given the same status and freed.

"There is no criminal act in the actions of a soldier," he said. "He carries out the instructions issued by his superiors. After the war, captured soldiers are set free," he said.

He maintains that the Pretoria Minute is one such post-war agreement.



Neo Potsane

Security tightens at hospital with hunger strikers

SECURITY at Johannesburg Hospital's ward 486 has been tightened after a spate of interviews with hunger strikers this week

Journalists have managed to sneak into the ward with cameras and tape recorders on various occasions but this has been stopped by the prison authorities who say "only relatives" may visit the hunger strikers.

Appeal

Meanwhile nine hunger strikers at Johannesburg Hospital, stunned by ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela's appeal to them to end their hunger strike this week, have vowed to continue their fast

Of the nine admitted to Johannesburg Hospital, three Umkhonto we Sizwe guerrillas have been fasting for 38 days. They are Jabu Masina, Ting Ting Masango and Neo Potsane. The other six, all National Union of Metalworkers of SA (Numsa) members, have been without food for 36 days.

In a statement the three MK soldiers said: "We consider ourselves political prisoners. All our operations were a way of contributing to the total dismantling of

PAT DEVEREAUX

apartheid and none were for personal gain.

"We won our appeal from the death sentence purely on political grounds.

"Initially the main charge against us was treason. Alternative charges included terrorism, murder, possession of arms and a number of other charges.

"In an attempt to criminalise the case, the regime withdrew the main charge of treason and tried us only for the murder charge.

The Numsa six also claim to be political prisoners. They said they were involved in strike action on October 23 1989.

Charged

They were arrested on May 29 1990.

They said they were jailed for eight months and were charged on January 28 1991. The court hearing is set for August 1991 in the Supreme Court and the six say the charges against them are not clear.

According to the Human Rights Commission there are still 17 prisoners on hunger strike, 14 of whom have been taken to hospital.

Island's heritage

Will be preserved

(253)
ARCUS 8/6/91

MICHAEL MORRIS

Political Correspondent

AS fears — or hopes — that Robben Island could become a neon-lit gambler's mecca with high-rise hotels and lucrative casinos continue to be heard in the debate on the future of the internationally notorious enclave, recent government statements show the emphasis of new development will be on history and the environment.

In the short-term, the island's maximum security prison is to be brought back into service soon when 600 "ordinary" convicts are shipped over to relieve pressure on mainland prisons.

The Department of Correctional Services will remain, for the time being, the caretaker of this island of oddities.

But the government has made it clear the incarceration of criminals is not the island's long-term future.

And nor, suggests Minister of Justice Mr Kobie Coetsee, is it likely to be turned into a commercial bauble.

His recent statement that it "is not going (to be) trampled by people who are not interested in the conservation of the island" underlines the government's view that the historical and environmental heritage of the settlement should be preserved.

Clearly, however, there will be a commercial element to what one could call the post-prison era. State interest in the island focuses even now on the cultural, architectural and historical heritage, and the environment, but the government has already broadly mapped out a role for the private sector in helping to develop the island, in part anyway, as a tourist destination.

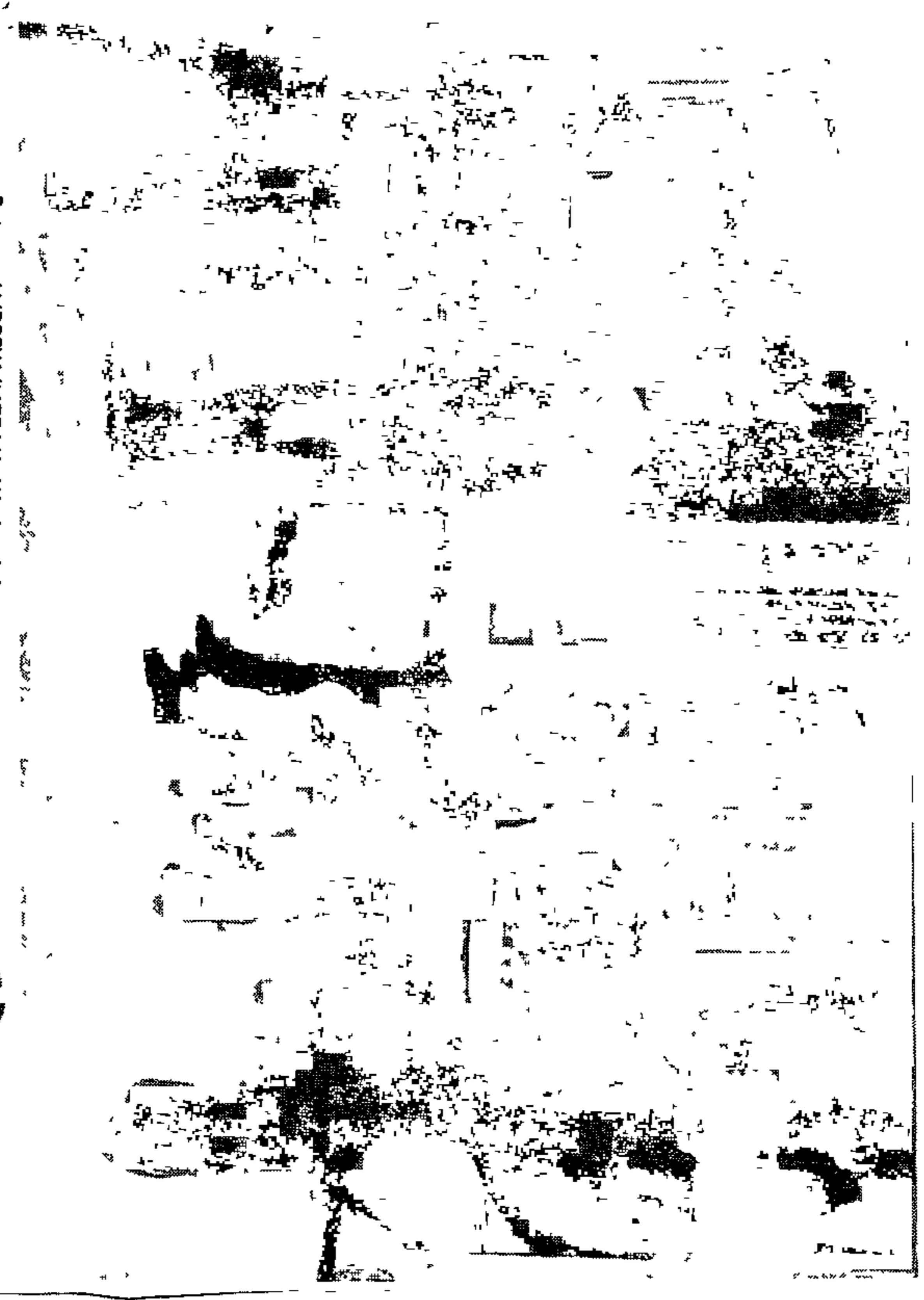
Journalists taken on a tour of the island this week were struck — as many people have been before — by the potential it offers as a nature reserve, as a window on the Cape's past and, indeed, as a tourist resort of sorts with one of the most spectacular panoramas of the city and the mountain soaring into the clouds behind it.

It is equally clear that the island will be forever remembered for its role in South African politics, in reinforcing the spirit of resistance among some of the country's most committed and resilient opponents of apartheid.

The heritage of Robben Island is inescapably linked now to the African struggle for liberation and this will also have to be accounted for in the future of the island.

The prison is one of the modern world's most famous, as are some of its former prisoners.

The Provincial Administration has recognised this. In a recent statement it said that the establishment of a museum on the island must reflect the contribution of all who helped to shape the is-



Pictures: ANDREW INGRAM, Weekend Argus

□ **LEARNING CENTRE:** Formerly the Dutch Reformed parsonage, this neat stone building now serves as the Robben Island primary school.

land's history and it must be planned as far as possible with their involvement.

Environmentally, a plan has already been drawn up to replace the alien trees such as bluegums and cypresses with indigenous flora.

The northern section of the island has been declared a reserve to protect birds and game. The number of duck, land and sea birds are constantly monitored and controlled.

Research into the historical and architectural heritage on the island continues under the auspices of the National Monuments Council.

This includes the renovation of historically important buildings on the island.

With the help of the South African Navy, wrecks along the ragged, rocky shore of the island are being plotted and researched.

The State's firm hold on the island implies that private sector development will be slow to take root, and cautiously monitored once it does.

Given the sensitivities surrounding the island, that is probably just as well.

□ **BEACON:** Built in 1864, the Robben Island lighthouse on Minto Hill occupies the spot used by Van Riebeeck to light huge fires to warn ships away from the island's rocky shores.



□ **SPECTACULAR VIEW:** Recently renovated, the Residency — once the home of the Commissioner of the island and now the officers' mess — is among the most imposing buildings in the small settlement and commands a spectacular panorama of the mainland.

DEMANDS . . . Mkhonto we Sizwe Western Cape leader Mr Mxolisi Petane hands demands for the release of all political prisoners to Colonel Johannes Kaufmann, of the Department of Correctional Services, at the Hendrik Verwoerd Building yesterday. Picture RICHARD BELL

Free prisoners, say marchers

Staff Reporter

ABOUT 150 singing protesters, many ANC members, yesterday marched to the Hendrik Verwoerd Building near Parliament to deliver an open letter to the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, demanding the release of all political prisoners

The march leaders included Anglican priest, Father Michael Lapsley, who lost both hands and an eye when a parcel bomb addressed to him exploded at his Harare home on April 28 last year

Father Lapsley said he blamed the CCB for the attempt on his life

In an interview, he said he was expelled from South Africa in 1976 and granted indemnity last month

"My impression is one of incredible wealth in the midst of incredible poverty — I'm deeply shocked by the scale of homelessness," he added

Father Lapsley, who returns to Harare next week, said he was "exploring the possibilities of returning home"

● Sapa reports from Johannesburg that two awaiting trials "politicals" have entered the 38th day of their hunger strike

The Department of Correctional Services said the number of prisoners on hunger strike varied from day to day, but they were all "continuously monitored" by doctors

PARCEL-BOMB VICTIM . . . Father Michael Lapsley, critically hurt by a powerful parcel bomb at his Harare home last year, at the hunger strikers support march in Cape Town yesterday.

Picture RICHARD BELL

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Passage of power... The Corridor of 33, where 33 high-profile political prisoners were kept and (inset) the view Nelson Mandela had on the island.



Welcome... The entrance to notorious Robben Island.

By DESMOND BLOW

THE enigma that is Nelson Mandela became more mysterious this week when the steel doors of Robben Island, South Africa's "Devil's Island", were thrown open by the Department of Correctional Services... Here Nelson Mandela spent 18 of his 27 years of imprisonment, during 15 of which he was obliged to pound big rocks into small gravel from morning to dusk at the island's quarry... As he looked up from his exertions he could see in the distance over the misty sea, like some faraway fairyland, the buildings of Cape Town blinking at him... The Mountain towered above, silent, brooding, often covered by its famed tablecloth.

In the evening he and others would drag themselves back to the prison and into the dormitory, with its double bunks and shiny stone floors, which Mandela at first shared with as many as 36 other prisoners.

This week, for the first time in a decade, journalists were allowed on Robben Island. Unlike a visit 10 years ago, there were no restrictions, other than forbidding pictures to be taken of the medium security prison where non-political prisoners are still kept, and the refusal to stop the bus to allow photographers to take pictures of the quarry.

The last of the political prisoners were either released from the maximum security prison or transferred from the island by April 30 this year. Now it remains cold and ghostlike.

Robben Island's reputation grew, like that of the infamous French penal colony Devil's Island, because of the secrecy surrounding those sent to a dark smudge in shark-infested waters. There were rumours of harsh treatment of prisoners, and mystery grew because it was used exclusively to imprison blacks.

The maximum security prison comprises a single-storey, barracks-like collection of slate buildings behind four-metre high walls and parallel fences with watch towers at the corners.

It is relatively open, with any yards and a big

Media gets

first look

at Island



Island art... A prisoner's sculpture still stands - and a model perches in the background.

MONUMENT TO MANDELA

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playing field. Its security is the treacherous sea which bars the way to the land, five kilometres off.

The last person to attempt an escape was a prisoner from the non-political section who went out to sea with a child's paddle boat and was never seen again - neither was the paddle boat.

However, in more recent times, since the departure of Mandela, the treatment of political prisoners became more lenient.

They were not forced to work and some of them

fashioned wooden figures of men, dogs and even birds.

They were encouraged to take part in sport at the weekend and Steve Tshwete, now ANC head of sport, was president of the rugby club.

But in the silent, now deserted dormitories with bare stone walls where Mandela, Sisulu and others were jailed, no lockers were provided for the prisoners.

Colonel Wessel van Niekerk, who has been in charge of the penal colony for two years, says prisoners were

allowed to keep belongings in a box next to their bed.

In later years, 33 of the island's most prominent political prisoners, including Mandela, were shifted to a wing with 33 small single cells.

Mandela's cell was number eight, the fourth through his small window into an exercise yard with a high prison wall.

Above the walls is nothing but sky, scurrying clouds, seagulls wheeling and crying, and all around the noise of the crashing

sea. "I thought, here is the place we have been brought to rot," recalls Andrew Mlangeni, convicted with Mandela of treason.

Each of these single cells are two metres in length and less than two metres wide.

The floors are of the same polished stone as those in the dormitories. The same boxes held their possessions and Mandela was one of the fortunate ones - above his bed was a long shelf and on the opposite wall were three

shoe-box sized "lockers" in which he probably kept his toiletries.

The bed is only two thirds of a metre wide and most beds in the section seem no longer than 1.70 metres. Mandela was fortunate, his is a little longer, but still too short for his tall figure.

The frame of the bed has no springs but is of pressed cardboard and the mattress is foam rubber. The bed is still there with its rough grey prison blankets neatly in place.

The 33 prisoners in this section were allowed to

mingle. According to the colonial, the cell doors have not been locked since he took over and prisoners could visit one another freely in their cells.

They would rise at 7am and clean their cells before being allowed into the yard for exercise. At 11 am they were given lunch and at 3 pm dinner.

They were locked in their section every day from 3 pm to 7 am.

The only blacks they ever saw for years on end were prisoners. All the prison personnel were white.

There is plenty of wild life on the bleak island, from penguins to spring-bok, and many buildings of historical interest.

Envisaging a bright post-apartheid future, there are vague plans to transform the island into a recreation centre.

The government says it is considering building a museum to "do justice to this lovely island's history".

By THEMBA KHUMALO

DAVID Moisi spent nearly a decade in solitary confinement as a Death Row prisoner in Pretoria Central, and as a lifer on Robben Island — but he remembers almost every detail of the guerrilla mission he carried out which got him into prison.

About 10 years ago, Moisi and his co-accused, Bobby Tsotsobe and Johannes Shabangu, were sentenced to death for their part in bombing the Sasol One oil refinery at Secunda and Sasol Two at Sasolburg in 1981. However, the Appeal Court changed the sentence to life imprisonment and they spent the next eight years in solitary confinement on the island.

Speaking from his Sebokeng home, Moisi, a former member of Umkhonto weSizwe's special operations division, recalled for the first time how he and his 11 comrades carried out what he called the "Mission of the Decade" when they bombed the two oil refineries with Soviet-made limpet mines.

Mission of the decade

It took three days to put out the fire and the damage cost millions of rands to repair.

"We split into two groups — one for each refinery. Barney Mokoane, our commander, went to live with other comrades at Zamdela Hostel in Sasolburg, while others were accommodated at the local police station under the pretext of being migrant labourers looking for work.

In terms of the law, the exact details of the operation cannot be published. However, Moisi said the group decided to carry out the mission on a Sunday to minimise any possible casualties. The East German-

It was the first time limpet mines had been used in guerrilla sabotage in South Africa

trained Moisi said the limpet mines exploded while they were on their way to Mozambique through Swaziland.

"After a firing operation we could have taken a rest in Swaziland, but for security reasons we decided not to stop. "We knew the enemy's first reaction to the blast would have been to raid neighbouring States, where we would have been exposed to early ar-

rest or death. We drove through Swaziland straight to Mozambique where we received a hero's welcome. "We were an elite force that had accomplished its mission flawlessly. When they reached Mozambique, Mokoane reported to Joe Slovo, who was then MK chief of staff. There was euphoria in the ANC camps over their success. "Our operation had ushered in a new phase in our struggle. It was the first time limpet mines had been used in guerrilla sabotage in South Africa. "Not only did we want to concentrate on mili-

tary targets, but on strategic installations as well. "We chose the two refineries as targets because they supplied fuel to the SADF, which had been occupying the black townships and staging military raids into neighbouring states to kill and destabilise them."

However, Moisi's excitement was short-lived. In October he and four other guerrillas were instructed to infiltrate South Africa again to bomb another oil refinery in Cape Town.

"After crossing the Swaziland border we hired a taxi to take us to Witbank where we would get another car to the Reef. However, we were arrested after the taxi driver betrayed us. "He drove us straight to Malelane Police Station. He told us he was going to tell his policeman father that he was taking us to Witbank and we believed him. He parked outside the police station, went inside and came out with the police. "The rest is history," said Moisi.



David Moisi was on Death Row for nearly 10 years after being convicted for blowing up Sasol

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Prisoners end fast

HUNGER strikers at the Johannesburg Hospital suspended their 36-day fast yesterday.

The 10 prisoners ended their hunger strike upon the request of the ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela, who said the struggle for their release continued. — CP Reporter

■ See Page 16

9 suspend hunger strike after Hani's visit

Staff Reporter 10/6/91

Intervention over the weekend by Umkhonto we Sizwe's chief of staff Chris Hani has led to the suspension of a hunger strike by nine political prisoners, Lawyers for Human Rights spokesman Paula McBride said

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yesterday. On Saturday three ANC members in the Johannesburg Hospital called off their strike after 38 days and yesterday six National Union of Metalworkers of SA members in the Johannesburg Hospital started eating after 36 days without food.

The decision to end the strike followed Mr Hani's visit to the nine men at the weekend.

Mrs McBride said the MK chief and other top ranking officials persuaded the men to fall into line with Nelson Mandela's appeal to call off their hunger strike.

Nine prisoners ⁽²⁵³⁾ end hunger strike

Own Correspondent 10/6/91

JOHANNESBURG — Nine hunger strikers at Johannesburg Hospital ended their fast at the weekend after more than 35 days.

According to a Correctional Services spokesman, five people are still on hunger strike.

Yesterday six National Union of Metalworkers (Numsa) awaiting-trial prisoners ended their 36-day hunger strike, hospital superintendent Dr Trevor Frankish said. And on Saturday, three other hunger strikers at the Johannesburg Hospital — who had been convicted in the 1989 Delmas 11 trial — suspended their 38-day strike in response to last week's call by ANC deputy president Mr Nelson Mandela.

Two murder accused at Baragwanath Hospital, Mr Thabiso Thekhane and Mr Molefe Metsing, continued their hunger strike for the 40th day yesterday — the longest ever undertaken in SA.

3 end 38-day hunger strike

THREE political prisoners admitted to Johannesburg General Hospital suspended their 38-day hunger strike on Saturday

In a statement the strikers - Jabu Masina, Ting Ting Masango and Neo Potsane - said the reason for their strike had been to focus attention on the Government's failure to abide by its agreement to release political prisoners.

The Minister of Justice, Kobie Coetsee, says there are only criminals left in jail and that all political prisoners have been released. This is un-

true," the statement said.

The hunger strikers, who have each lost more than 20 percent of their body weight, ended their fast on the request of the ANC, which said the struggle for their release would take place on other levels.

"We remain prepared, at any stage, to resume our fast should it be necessary," the statement said - Sapa

Sisulu briefs Evans on war and peace

Biday 10/6/91
VIOLENCE and ways of dealing with it were the main topics of discussion between Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans and ANC leader Walter Sisulu in Soweto yesterday.

Evans told reporters after the meeting that they had also discussed the issue with government in Cape Town during the past several days.

Sisulu said he was confident about movement towards solving the violence. There was "great potential" for peace, he said.

However, he added that government had to move further on the question of violence. He said the ANC had already taken steps to address the violence.

Sisulu said the two had not discussed the question of sanctions, but the "real discussion" between Evans and the ANC would take place today.

On Saturday Evans met Archbishop Desmond Tutu in Cape Town and assured him that the Australian government had not abandoned SA's blacks in their struggle for political rights.

Evans paid a 40-minute visit to Bishopscourt, Tutu's residence, where the two men had "frank and

very, very friendly discussions", Tutu said.

Tutu said he had expressed the deep appreciation which blacks felt for Australia's role in supporting "the black struggle" and had indicated to Evans his distress at Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke's reported enthusiasm for President F W de Klerk's reform announcements in January.

"But he has reassured me and we needed it because I thought we were being abandoned," Tutu said.

Evans followed his meeting with Tutu by calling on Alan Boesak, director of the Foundation for Peace and Justice.

Dr Boesak said he had asked for Australia's continued support and for understanding of the need for a constituent assembly before the constitutional phase and the first post-apartheid parliamentary elections.

Evans later attended a lunch at Stellenbosch where his guests included University of the Western Cape rector Prof Jakes Gerwel, Peninsula Technikon principal Franklin Sonn, and their wives - Sapa.

● Comment: Page 4

PAC will meet government only after unity talks

JONATHAN REES

THE PAC would engage government in talks once liberation organisations had established a common position at the patriotic front conference scheduled for August, PAC general secretary Benny Alexander said at the weekend.

The PAC was not opposed in principle to negotiations with government, but would only engage in talks as part of a united bloc.

He said the PAC had written to government in December to say the organisation would only discuss details of a constituent assembly, including its composition, details of election dates, voting age and international involvement.

Reports recently said senior government negotiators hoped the PAC might yet be persuaded to join the negotiating table.

Alexander said this was based on a false premise because there were no negotiations. Solutions to SA problems would only come from a democratically elected constituent assembly. *Biday 10/6/91*

The ANC, he said, had instructions from its members that constitutional negotiations should only take place within that assembly.

The PAC had no policy or tactic preventing it from seeking a democratic solution for SA, but this would depend on decisions taken at the patriotic front conference.

The PAC and ANC executives had decided at the Harare Conference they would not engage government on a bilateral basis.

"Any talks on negotiations or the way forward must follow the conference on the formation of a united front. We don't see ourselves sitting down and deciding for the whole country," Alexander said.

Nine more hunger strikers start eating

NINE hunger strikers have ended their fast at the Johannesburg Hospital after more than 35 days. A correctional Services spokesman said this left five people still on hunger strike.

Yesterday six National Union of Metalworkers members who are awaiting trial for murder ended their 36-day hunger strike, superintendent Dr Trevor Frankish said.

On Saturday three men convicted in 1989 at Delmas began eating at the Johannesburg Hospital Correctional

TANIA LEVY

Services said three others ended their fast at the weekend. *(253)*

A police spokesman said that in Baragwanath Hospital, Thabiso Thekane and Molefe Metsing entered the 40th day of their strike yesterday - the longest hunger strike yet in SA.

Human Rights Commission spokesman Safoora Sadek could not confirm how many prisoners had suspended their fast during the weekend.



5 political prisoners still refusing food - HRC

By Shirley Woodgate

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Five political prisoners were still on hunger strike yesterday, three in hospital, after 12 had suspended their protest on Saturday, the Human Rights Commission (HRC) reported.

Two hunger strikers - Bon-gani Mazibuko, who was sentenced last year to 11 years for murder, and co-accused Elias

Pasha, who was sentenced to 7½ years, had entered the 17th day of their protest at Leeukop prison.

They were convicted of killing six non-striking co-workers in the Paper, Printing and Allied Workers Union.

Nathaniel Mbatha was in the 28th day of his hunger strike in the Potchestroom prison. He was sentenced last year to eight

years in jail for public violence.

Elias Shongwe and L Ganta were reported to be on hunger strike at Diepkloof prison on charges of murder, having been sentenced in April this year.

One of these prisoners was in the 15th day of his hunger strike and the other had been protesting for eight days.

The HRC said nine hunger strikers at the Johannesburg

Hospital suspended their protest on Saturday in response to a call by Nelson Mandela.

The only woman prisoner on hunger strike, Priscilla Mkhimiza, had suspended her protest for the second time in the Pretoria prison. Two awaiting trial prisoners at the Protea police station, Molefe Metsing, and Thabiso Thekane, had suspended their hunger strike at the weekend, the HRC said.

Free hunger strikers - ANC

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AN emergency resolution in solidarity with hunger striking political prisoners was taken at the ANC's PWV regional conference held in Johannesburg at the weekend *Sowetan 11/6/71*

The conference, attended by delegates from 90 branches in the region, was held in preparation for the ANC's first national congress next month since its unbanning - *Sapa*

Ghosts of apartheid haunt Robben Island

Sowetan 11/6/91

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By RODNEY PINDER

APARTHEID'S imprisoned ghosts swirl around Robben Island which lies like a blot on the glorious seascape of Table Bay.

The cry of the gulls and the moan of the wind are all that now stir South Africa's notorious political jail.

The black anti-apartheid fighters who were locked up for their beliefs have gone - as have most of the race laws they flouted - leaving long years of their lives behind as a forfeit.

Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki and other luminaries of the struggle lost a third of their years here before being freed under the Government's reforms

To celebrate the dismantling of apartheid and the end of Robben Island's 30 years as a political penal colony - South Africa's very own "Devil's Island" - prison authorities invited a group of journalists to inspect the empty cell blocks.

I was the only one who also took part in the sole other media trip to the jail. When we visited it in 1977, the security prison was doing brisk business and Mandela was only half way through the 27 years he was to serve

Mandela, then 59, was clearing weeds from a gravel and dirt pathway as we passed by. He first tried to conceal himself behind a tall rockery, then emerged, flung down his shovel, and stood, hands on hips, legs apart, staring at us in disgust as we were hurriedly driven off by our official minders.

His 2,1m by 2,4m cell is empty but for an iron bed, still with coarse grey blankets neatly folded, and bare bookshelves

Then a small pile of his khaki prison clothing lay on a shelf beside a picture of three young children. A facecloth hung on the



five-barred steel door. His books included the New English Bible, an economic history of Europe and *Great Stories of Mystery and Suspense*

Next door then was Mbeki (66). He was on a stepladder cleaning his window. He has written a book in which he recalls how the "politicals" were forbidden newspapers, television or any other current information.

The prisoners then were allowed two visits and two censored letters a month and a new family photo every year.

Kitchens

We were not allowed to interview any. Three tried to speak, but a guard slammed a steel door in their faces.

Outside, the kitchens that then were stewing the men's diet of meat, vegetables and porridge, are cold. Metal windows swing in the wind and a door clangs, echoing in the emptiness.

Life-size plaster figures of a brown skinned tribesman, his wife and dog, crafted by prisoners to pass the long days, stand in a grassy yard.

Hospital

A wooden seagull, modelled after those that wheel freely over the island, is tethered to a tree.

The hospital beds remain. In 1977 the hospital was the only place half of the prisoners saw a bed. They slept on sisal and felt mats.

We were told by Prisoners Deputy Commissioner Major General Jannie Roux that "accommodation problems" prevented beds for all. The general now heads State President FW de Klerk's office.



Warrant Officer Charles Adams opens the door to the cell that was occupied by ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela during his 19-year stay on Robben Island.

The 574ha island is a desolate place, cut off from the mainland 5km across Table Bay by cruel currents and shark-infested sea. No one ever escaped.

At times it seems out of this world: the sea is rough, the sky gloomy and clouds shroud Table Mountain.

"I thought, here is a place we have been brought to rot," recalls treason convict Andrew Mlangeni.

Security

Eddie Daniels, who served 15 years, said he felt as though he inhabited a tomb in the special security section with Mandela.

"It was deadly quiet and cold. Silence was the rule. The warders weren't hostile, nor were they friendly. They were impersonal."

Authorities now emphasise another Robben Island, mainly its nature reserve. Our 1977 tour was of the jail. This time they wanted to show us penguins and ostriches.

Minister of Justice and of Correctional Services Kobie Coetsee says his department has managed the place so well that in 1984 "there were only seven penguins and today there are 4 000".

"We must make it accessible to the public and in time allow them to enjoy the atmosphere of Robben Island," he said.

The thought of Robben Island becoming a tourist trap outrages many black activists. They want it left as a sort of museum of the inhumanities where some of the ghosts of apartheid can perhaps be laid to rest - in peace. - Sapa-Reuter

In regard to Africa, too, this argument is surely on South Africa's side, because Africa said the boundaries of the colonial time must remain [Time expired]

*The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS Mr Speaker, there is nothing to which I really need to reply, because the hon member was then caught out with Cyrus Vance

*An HON MEMBER Give us a Plk show then!

*The MINISTER They know just as well as we do that the political party in that area

*Mr SPEAKER Order! The hon the Minister must resume his seat A few years ago I gave a ruling to the effect that hon members were not to call one another by their Christian names or nicknames or shout them out across the floor I ask hon members to bear that ruling in mind and to apply it The hon the Minister may proceed

*The MINISTER Mr Speaker, the simple fact is that this Government is taking the interests of the inhabitants of Walvis Bay fully into consideration That party is not doing so The party which is their counterpart in South West Africa agreed to that Namibian constitution That party—their brothers—agreed that Walvis Bay should become part of Namibia That is a simple fact [Interjections] That constitution was unanimously accepted The CP is in fact in conflict with their counterparts and colleagues there in Namibia

The fact of the matter is that this Government puts one question above all others, namely what is in the interests of the people of Walvis Bay That is why the MP for Walvis Bay was included in the delegation and why we will not make any arrangements which will have a detrimental effect on those interests [Time expired]

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version

For oral reply

General Affairs

Air pollution in Pretoria

*1 Mr J CHIOLE asked the Minister of National Health †

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

(a) What is the highest (i) level of sulphur dioxide and (ii) smoke concentration measured in the city centre of Pretoria to date, (b) when was it measured and (c) how does it compare with internationally accepted safety norms?

B1101E

†The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH

(a) (i) 99 microgram per cubic metre annual winter average and

(ii) 47 soiling index units per cubic metre, annual winter average

(b) the highest record sulphur dioxide annual winter average was measured during 1959 and the highest annual winter average for smoke concentration during 1964 and 1965 and

(c) accepted international safe levels for annual winter averages are

Sulphur dioxide 80 micrograms per cubic metre

Smoke 25 soiling index units per cubic metre

†Mr J CHIOLE Mr Chairman, arising from the hon the Minister's reply, what has the Government done to reduce these exceptionally high levels?

†The MINISTER Mr Speaker, the hon member's question astounds me Had the hon member listened to what I said, he would realise that we take great pains to keep these levels within normal and internationally accepted standards I can give the hon member the following additional information Smoke and sulphur dioxide has been measured on Church Square since 1959 and as from 1975 there are also points in Pretoria West, Capital Park, Arcadia, Scientia North and Scientia South Over the years the smoke and sulphur dioxide levels at these stations have shown a sustained decrease and the annual winter averages for 1990 are as follows Sulphur dioxide measured in micrograms per cubic metre was 20 on Church Square, Pretoria West, 23, Capital Park, 17, Arcadia, 11, Scientia North, 18, and Scientia South, 17 The smoke concentrations, measured in pollution index units per cubic metre, were 12 on Church Square, Pretoria West, 15, Capital Park, 9, Arcadia, 10, Scientia North 6, and Scientia South, 4

The hon member asked what we are doing to reduce these unacceptably high levels He asked what the highest level was The highest level was measured in 1959, namely 99 micrograms At present it measures 20 and 23, and in his constituency 23 I do not think there is any problem

Mr R J LORIMER Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, may I ask her what international standards she abides by, because there tend to be quite a number of them, I would also like to know whether we have established any standards ourselves above which we would regard the air pollution prevalent in our skies as being totally unreasonable

The MINISTER Mr Speaker, I would gladly provide the hon member with the details The answer which I have available is that we use accepted international safety levels, but I will provide him with the details of which international standards we apply

†Mr J CHIOLE Mr Chairman, further arising from the hon the Minister's reply to my question, I would like to repeat the question What is the Government doing to reduce the levels? [Interjections]

†The MINISTER Mr Speaker, I think it is clear from the reply which I gave to the hon member that the achievement we have attained is evident, but there is a sustained attempt and continuous monitoring of these pollution levels to ensure that there is a progressive decrease I think the hon member will agree with me that the achievement which I referred to, is clear evidence of what the Government is doing to keep it under control

†Dr J J VILONEL Mr Speaker, further arising from the hon the Minister's reply, I would like to ask her whether she would agree with me that if the CP and the ANC were to burn fewer documents and objects, there would be less smoke [Interjections]

Release of prisoners: Gov/ANC agreement

*2 Adv J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Correctional Services †

(1) Whether the Government has concluded an agreement with the ANC on the release of certain prisoners, if so, (a) when and (b) what is the nature of this agreement,

(2) (a) how many prisoners were released in terms of this agreement before they had served the full term of imprisonment imposed upon them and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

B1402E

†The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

(1) (a) and (b)

During the State President's speech on 2 February 1990 the unbanning of previously prohibited organisations was announced and this led the way to discussions between the Government and the ANC These discussions led to the Groote Schuur Minute of 4 May 1990 and the Pretoria Minute of 6 August 1990 and the contents of both these documents were made known publically Arising from this, norms and mechanisms were established in terms of which the release of security and security-related prisoners would be dealt with as well as the guidelines for the defining of political offences in the South African context The basis for the authority for release is founded in the Constitutional Act and the Prisons Act No new authorities were added

Various categories of offences for which indemnity has been granted were announced in the *Government Gazette* in course of time and every prisoner (irrespective of his political alliance) who is of the opinion that the motive for his offence(s) could be regarded as being political and who has committed himself to peaceful solution is given the opportunity to apply for release This process is still ongoing and many applications are still being received This mechanism is only available in those cases where the offences were committed before 8 October 1990

(2) (a) and (b)

As a result of the aforementioned up to and including 11 June 1991, 1 036 sentenced security and security/unrest-related prisoners on various sides of the political spectrum were released in terms of the various categories and in consequence of applications

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

†Adv J J S PRINSLOO Mr Speaker, arising out of the reply of the hon the Minister He referred specifically to the normal situation in which the release of prisoners, according to certain norms, is done in terms of the Constitution and the Prisons Act I now want to ask whether in the case of these prisoners the normal norms were applied in any way whatsoever by, for example, looking at the adaptability and the possibility of readmitting these prisoners as normal, acceptable citizens, or was it purely a political criterion in terms of the agreement?

253 †The MINISTER Mr Speaker, it was linked to the criterion of the political organisation that has committed itself and its members to peaceful development and peaceful involvement Furthermore, every individual prisoner, if he is a prisoner who has applied for his release and if he is not considered to be bound by his organisation in this way, is required to obtain his release on the strength of other factors, for example if he commits himself individually to such voluntary involvement in peaceful development I want to tell the hon member that many persons on the right wing obtained their indemnity and release in this manner, without their organisation as such committing itself to peaceful development and involvement In other words, as far as they are concerned, it was also not asked what the possibility of readmittance to society was, whether the community would be able to integrate them, or what the social circumstances were In the first instance, therefore, consideration was given to the individual's integrity by way of a commitment to the norms of peaceful involvement and development, with the point of departure being the standpoint that it had been a political consideration which had initially moved him to commit that offence [Interjections]

†Adv J J S PRINSLOO Mr Speaker, further arising out of the reply of the hon the Minister, seeing that these releases, which the question specifically deals with, were effected as a result of an agreement with a specific political organisation, is it the Government's intention to conclude similar agreements with every political organisation in South Africa with members who are in prison for committing so-called political offences, and to release their members on exactly the same basis?

†The MINISTER Mr Speaker, each organisation has the opportunity to talk to the Government and the indemnity authorities in this way in

order to negotiate this, but, as I have said, an individual also has that opportunity to obtain it himself if his organisation has not committed itself as such to negotiation and peaceful development I have just mentioned that 23 persons who can be identified as belonging to the right-wing political spectrum, earned their indemnity in this way Four earned their release without their organisation—I do not want to name the organisation across the floor of the House—coming forward to negotiate They themselves came forward as individuals In the left-wing spectrum there is a political organisation which as an organisation refuses outright to accept peaceful development and participation in this manner and it has also instructed its individual members not to come forward to negotiate this facility individually They have consequently not yet been released on that basis Having said that, I do not know whether I have fully dealt with the hon member's question

†Adv J J S PRINSLOO Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, is the Government satisfied at this stage that the ANC is in all respects doing what it has to do in return in terms of this agreement, and if not, how is the Government going to negate the consequences of the releases if the ANC does not do that?

†The MINISTER Mr Speaker, let me immediately tell the hon member that it is a very good question, but he is welcome to have a look at paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Pretoria Minute He is also welcome to have a look at the document of the D F Malan Conference which has been released and which very clearly indicates that the ANC will still have to come up with a final quid pro quo It is the final renouncement of any form of armed struggle and related activities As far as that is concerned it is of course also true that many discussions still have to be held with the ANC and he would do well to leave it to the Government to deal with that facet in the proper way In saying that there should be a quid pro quo, the hon member is, however, absolutely correct

I just want to tell the hon member that it has definitely not been unsuccessful I have a great deal of evidence that on the part of the leadership of the ANC, steps are in fact being taken to keep to it, and where there is deviation, to address their people

The same can also be said about the right-wing organisations I have evidence—some of the people came to me and said it was fair and just and that they, too, respected the commitment and that they would keep to it Therefore I think what actually has to be said here is that we expect all persons using this facility to honour their commitment

253 I also just want to say that it has come to our attention that people have indeed been released—this is probably the hon member's next question—who apparently do not keep to it Those people are immediately liable to further prosecution Naturally they are casting a shadow over their own organisation and naturally this is the type of thing one will take up with the organisation I am therefore not trying to evade the issue here, saying that we should turn a blind eye to all probabilities and possibilities We are also not starry-eyed The fact remains that it had to be done to normalise the whole political spectrum—to the left and to the right

The hon member's comments, particularly in regard to the left-wing, naturally also apply to every element on the political right-wing and to anybody who is planning, discussing or encouraging something in this regard

†Adv J J S PRINSLOO Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, and in view of the fact that it will possibly be a long reply, I just want to ask the hon the Minister whether he, on demand, would be prepared to make available to hon members of the House full particulars of all the persons who have been released in terms of this agreement, for example their names, surnames, offences, the sentences imposed upon them and the effective periods which they had in fact served before they were released in terms of this agreement

†The MINISTER Mr Speaker, that is a reasonable question Up to now we have always regarded individual cases as a matter of a private nature, because in addition to somebody's membership of an organisation, he also has a private life It is not the intention to begin a witch-hunt and expose people We shall, however, consider the reasonableness of the hon member's question with a view to perhaps tabling it in restricted form I must, however, weigh it against the policy which has been adhered to up to now, namely that we regard and consequently deal with individual releases as a private matter

In respect of the indemnity I want to tell the hon member that up to now we have adhered to the policy of publishing the names of people who obtain indemnity in the *Gazette* for the sake of legal security, and I want to weigh it against that It has been done for general information purposes, so that unnecessary arrests or prosecutions are not effected and so that such persons can have the document in their possession in order to prove that they have been granted indemnity The hon member's request is not unfair or unreasonable, but I have to weigh it against the privacy of the individuals under discussion here and I shall get back to it

Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 180C (3) of the Standing Rules of Parliament

Marine accident: facilities/contingency plans

*3 Mr J H MOMBBERG asked the Minister of Environment Affairs

- (1) Whether South Africa in general and Cape Town in particular have any facilities and contingency plans for coping with an Exxon Valdez type of marine accident, if so, (a) what (i) facilities and (ii) plans in each case and (b) which Government Department is charged with the responsibility of co-ordinating clean-up operations in such cases,
- (2) whether any research has been done on the impact of an oil spill or a toxic maritime disaster will have on the coastal and marine ecosystems, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details?

B1117E

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS

I can state with confidence that no country in the world has the facilities and contingency plans at its disposal to cope with an Exxon Valdez type of marine accident As background information I would like to give a few statistics about the Exxon Valdez disaster

The damage to the environment cannot be expressed in money terms Apart from the more than \$1 000 000 000 (in other words one billion) that it had cost Exxon initially to react (including \$45 000 000 for the cleaning of oilers and seabirds and \$230 000 000 for claims from fishermen for loss of income) a host of people and apparatus were involved

'Commission confused over indemnity deal'

It appeared that the Human Rights Commission (HRC) was confused regarding which prisoners qualified for indemnity in terms of the Government's agreement with the ANC, the Ministry of Justice told The Star in a statement last night.

Responding to HRC claims that the Government had made "false or misleading" statements on the number of political prisoners still in jail, the Ministry said it explored the fact that the HRC saw fit to comment on matters and numbers still under discussion, thus attempting to cast aspersions on Government statements.

The HRC said it believed there were 972 "political prisoners" in jail, while the Department of Correctional Services only admitted to a figure of 284.

The Ministry said 1 896 prisoners had already been released and those who had not been freed were "contentious cases which may have far-reaching effects in view of the gravity of the crimes, such as murder and robbery".

Some prisoners were only "trying their luck" and their offences clearly did not have any political motivation.

The Ministry said the Department of Correctional Services had set up an audit committee, with, among other parties, the HRC, to discuss discrepancies regarding the number of prisoners perceived to qualify for release.

It was satisfied that nothing had emanated from those discussions to disprove the department's assessment of the numbers of political prisoners — Staff Reporter.

Star 12/16/91

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Details of 972 politicals listed

Govt figures on prisoners false — HRC

By Esmaré
van der Merwe
Political Reporter

The Human Rights Commission (HRC) yesterday accused the Government of having made "patently false, misleading or misinformed" statements on the number of political prisoners still in jail.

The HRC provided the media and foreign embassies with a list of 972 prisoners it regards as "political".

The list — containing the names, sentences, offences and jails where the prisoners are being held — is a direct challenge to the Government's recent announcement that all prisoners qualifying for indemnity in terms of the Pretoria Minute had been released.

The well-substantiated HRC document, the first of its kind since the controversy over political prisoners erupted, was released at a media briefing in Johannesburg attended by the ANPAC and Lawyers for Human Rights.

The Department of Justice said last night in a statement released to The Star that the HRC was creating its own scenarios regardless of the fact that the ANC and the Government had written

agreements on the question of who was to be regarded as a political prisoner.

In the hardest-hitting attack yet on the Government since the expiry date for the release of all political prisoners, April 30, HRC commissioner Dr Max Coleman told the press conference that the Government was acting "in a confused and inconsistent manner" and had "somehow lost contact with the letter and spirit of the Pretoria Minute".

On May 29, President de Klerk said he was satisfied that all prisoners who clearly qualified for release had been freed.

Legitimate

On the same day, Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee said the only class of prisoners left who wanted political status were those who had committed murder, rape, robbery or crimes resulting in serious bodily harm.

However, the HRC said Mr Coetsee's statement was "extremely unfortunate" in that it had "depoliticised and criminalised" legitimate political prisoners.

It said the Government's refusal to release political prisoners convicted of violent acts was in breach of the definition agreed upon by the joint ANC/Government

political offences working group, accepted in the Pretoria Minute.

The definition reads "In certain circumstances a 'common' crime (as distinct from a 'purely' political offence), even a serious one such as murder, may be regarded as a political offence."

Dr Coleman said the HRC, together with Lawyers for Human Rights and the Political Prisoner Release Programme, had been involved in an "auditing exercise" with the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) to reach agreement on candidates qualifying for release.

He said that of the 972 prisoners, the audit committee had so far agreed with the department on 284 political prisoners still being held. These were — in terms of the DCS's own categories — 24 security prisoners, 80 security-related prisoners, 161 unrest-related prisoners and 19 Death Row prisoners.

The balance of 688 prisoners named by the HRC were 58 "ordinary criminals" provisionally rejected by the department pending availability of further information, 79 unnamed prisoners (most of whom were minors at the time of trial), 210 untraced prisoners (names on the HRC list which have not yet been traced in DCS records), 208

● To Page 3

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Star 12/6/91

Island stirs up strong emotions

By ALI MPHAKI

THE island of Makana, alias Robben Island, conjures up mixed emotions

Some want it to remain a prison and others say it should be converted into a museum.

However, on the Sowetan/Radio Metro Talkback Show yesterday there was general agreement that the island should not be converted into a tourist attraction

Most callers to host deejay Tim Modise said the island should be left as it is in order to show future generations where South Africa's black freedom fighters were jailed

Dalwonga, telephoning from Roodepoort, said in a stern voice "The island must remain a maximum security prison for people like the AWB" before his line was cut off.

The talkback show yesterday attracted callers from as far as Durban and Newcastle - an encouraging sign that ideas can be traded throughout the



country.

Percy from Newcastle said "We need to keep it as a museum to show coming generations where our leaders were incarcerated. We must show them where apartheid kept our leaders"

Kenneth of Soweto wanted the island to be left as it is

"There will be those who want to destabilise the new South Africa I feel these people should be put on Robben Island

"People like Malan who are not politically rehabilitated must feel the same pain as Mandela felt while there," he said

Neo sounded a lone voice when she said the island should be converted into a centre for abandoned children

HRC: Not all jailed politicians released

(253)

CT12/6/91

JOHANNESBURG. — The Human Rights Commission has denied government claims that all political prisoners have been released in terms of the Pretoria and Grootes Schuur Minutes.

Speaking at a press conference here yesterday, the HRC's Dr Max Coleman said the government had painted itself into a corner by refusing to release all political prisoners.

In terms of the Grootes Schuur and Pretoria Minutes, the deadline for the release of political prisoners was April 30. Yet the deadline expired six weeks ago with the promise by the government still unfulfilled and unresolved, he charged.

From February 2, 1990, to May this year, 1 013 prisoners had been released.

According to figures provided by Dr Coleman, the HRC had on record a total of 972 prisoners still behind bars on June 3 this year. Of these, said Dr Coleman, 284 fell "under the Department of Correctional Services' own categories". These included 24 "security prisoners", 80 "security-related prisoners", 161 "unrest-related prisoners" and 19 death row prisoners.

Dr Coleman added that the HRC, together with Lawyers for Human Rights and the Political Prisoner Release Programme, had "for some time" been engaged in an "auditing exercise" with the Department of Correctional Services "for the purpose of agreeing (on) candidates for release in terms of the Pretoria Minute". — Sapa

Govt 'holding 972

political prisoners'

THE Human Rights Commission (HRC) has rejected government claims that no political prisoners except murderers and rapists remain in SA jails

HRC commissioner Max Coleman said yesterday that up to June 3 the organisation had on record 972 political prisoners identified in terms of the Pretoria Minute

Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee said on May 29 the only prisoners left were those who had committed murder, rape, robbery and serious assault

Coleman said government and the ANC had agreed in the Pretoria Minute that the element of violence did not disqualify a particular action from being political

Coetsee's statement compounded "misleading or false" statements by government officials on the number of political prisoners still in jail, Coleman said On November 1, Coetsee had said there were 250 to 300 people who were clearly political prisoners,

and that the figure could rise to 600 with "a liberal interpretation"

"Since his statement, the authorities have, by their own account, released 850 political prisoners"

Official figures state that of the 1 013 political prisoners released between February 2 last year and May this year, 310 were freed by March 31 During April 628 were released, 80 were freed in May

Coleman said the "marked activity during April, as the deadline loomed", indicated "the arbitrary nature" of the release process

It was clear that the present application process was unworkable The simple answer was "creation of more and wider categories for administrative release" These could include membership of previously banned organisations, regardless of the act which convicted, provided the organisation vouched for the prisoner, he said



Human Rights Commission (HRC) spokesman Max Coleman, right, speaking at yesterday's news conference With him were the Matfkeng Anti-repression Group's David Green, the PAC's Mosebyane Malatsi and Chris Dlamini of the HRC. Picture ROBERT BOTHA

M

HRC hits back at department

253 THEO RAWANA

THE Human Rights Commission (HRC) said yesterday it found the Justice Department's response to its proposals for political prisoner release most disappointing and even petulant.

The department, in response to the HRC report that there were still 972 political prisoners in SA jails, had said the commission was "creating its own scenarios" regardless of the fact that the ANC and government had written agreements on who should be regarded as a political prisoner.

The HRC said yesterday it had entered into a prisoner auditing exercise with the Department of Correctional Services in the spirit of ensuring that no one who was possibly a candidate for release in terms of the Pretoria Minute should be overlooked.

"We are satisfied that the audit has been and continues to be a valuable exercise, and we are also satisfied that our statistics are accurate," the HRC said.

It added. "We are most unhappy, however, to be accused of creating scenarios. Our only scenario, in terms of making judgments on who qualifies for release, is the Pretoria Minute and its acceptance of the report of the working group."

The department had failed to respond to proposals to do away with its "bureaucratic" logjam.

Office

'5 prisoners in hospital'

FIVE hunger-striking political prisoners in the Transvaal were being treated in hospital, the Human Rights Commission claimed yesterday.

One prisoner, on his 25th day without food, was at Potchefstroom Hospital, while two hunger strikers from Diepkloof Prison, near Soweto, were moved to

Soweto
Baragwanath Hospital on Monday.

Another two prisoners from Leeuwkop Prison, north of Johannesburg, were being treated at Hillbrow Hospital.

Dr Max Coleman of the HRC on Tuesday denied Government claims that all political

prisoners were released by the April 30 deadline in terms of the Groote Schuur and Pretoria Minutes.

According to HRC figures, a total of 972 prisoners, regarded by the HRC as political prisoners, were still behind bars on June 3, Coleman said at a Press conference. - Sapa

(3/6/91)
253

972 political prisoners left

Sowetan 13/6/91

253

By THEMBA MOLEFE

THERE were still 972 political prisoners in South African jails, the Human Rights Commission said on Tuesday.

At a Press briefing, the HRC said it had a list of people it considered political prisoners in terms of the Pretoria Minute who were still in jail by June 3

The HRC, Lawyers for Human Rights and Political Prisoner Programme have been engaged in an auditing exercise with the Department of Correctional Services for the purpose of agreeing on candidates for the release of prisoners in terms of the Pretoria Minute.

In terms of this audit, 284 prisoners fell under Correctional Services' own categories

Of this number, 24 were security prisoners, 80 were security-related, 161 unrest-related and 19 were Death Row prisoners.

This now leaves the HRC with 688 prisoners whom it identified as political

but whom were not regarded as such in terms of the audit

These people fall into several categories "ordinary criminals", unnamed prisoners, most of who were minors at the time of their trial, untraced and homeland prisoners

Dr David Green of the Mafikeng Anti-repression Forum said there were 158 political prisoners in Bophuthatswana. Of these, 142 were convicted of treason in a 1989 attempted coup

The prisoners, all held at Rooigrond Prison, will embark on a hunger strike to back demands for their release, said Green.

He said the Bophuthatswana prisoners were in jail as a result of their opposition to apartheid, which created the homeland.

Star 14/6/91

2 hunger strikers on drips

Staff Reporter

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Two of the three remaining hunger-striking political prisoners were put on drips in hospital yesterday, says the Human Rights Commission (HRC)

Elias Shongwe and George Mbanjane, whose name has previously been incorrectly given as L Ganta, were transferred to Baragwanath Hospital from Diepkloof prison on Monday.

One of them has not eaten for 18 days and the other for 11, according to information given to the HRC by the Department of Prisons and Correctional Services. The department did not

specify who had been without food the longer

The third hunger-striker, Nathaniel Mbatha, in hospital in Potchefstroom, has not eaten for 27 days. His attorneys told the HRC that the prisoner had contracted jaundice and was showing signs of liver damage.

Two other hunger-striking political prisoners — Bongani Mdzibuko and Elias Pasha — suspended their hunger strikes on Wednesday afternoon.

They had been held in Leeuwkop prison, but at the time of the suspension of their hunger strike were being treated in the Hillbrow Hospital



Three still on hunger strike, says HRC

THEO RAWANA

TWO more prisoners suspended their hunger strike on Wednesday, reducing the number of those still fasting to three, the Human Rights Commission (HRC) said yesterday.

An HRC spokesman said Bongani Mazibuko and Elias Phasha, who were on their 19th day of refusing food at Leeuwkop Prison near Johannesburg, suspended their fast "apparently in response to ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela's appeal for an end to the hunger strike".

The two were members of the Paper, Printing, Wood and Allied Workers' Union convicted of killing six non-strikers in June 1988. *Monday 14/6/91*

One of the remaining three hunger strikers, Nathaniel Mbatha, was in Potchefstroom's Kalliedehaas Hospital with jaundice.

Mbatha, on his 27th day of refusing food yesterday, was sentenced last March to 14 years' imprisonment for public violence.

Diepkloof Prison inmates Elias Shongwe and ANC member George Mbajane were both in Baragwanath Hospital.

The HRC said Mbajane was previously named as L Ganta by the Correctional Services Department.

It said he would appear in court on August 12 in connection with murder and contravention of the Arms and Ammunition Act.

...an, right, leaves
...esterday after he
...filing (not shown)
...in charges. They
...was postponed to
...suspended by the
...SABC's external
...cture CATHERINE ROSS

2 more hunger strikers end their fast

CT 14/6/91
253

JOHANNESBURG. — Two political prisoners suspended their hunger strike on Wednesday, reducing the number of those still fasting to three, the Human Rights Commission (HRC) said yesterday. An HRC spokesman said Mr Bongani Mazibuko and Mr Elias Phasha, who were on their 19th day of refusing food at Leeuwkop Prison near here, suspended their fast "apparently in response to Mr Nelson Mandela's appeal for an end to the hunger strike".

One of the remaining three hunger strikers, Mr Nathaniel Mbatha was in Potchefstroom's Kalliedehaas Hospital with jaundice. "He was last seen by his lawyers on Monday and was showing signs of liver damage," the spokesman said.

Mr Mbatha was on his 27th day of refusing food yesterday.

Diepkloof Prison inmates Mr Elias Shongwe and Mr George Mbajane are both in Baragwanath Hospital. Mr Shongwe had been put on drips, the HRC said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the ANC said yesterday the government should stop trying to score cheap political points at the cost of the health and psychological well-being of political prisoners still in jail.

It said the ANC noted with increasing concern and anger the government's repeated insistence that all political prisoners who qualified in terms of the Groote Schuur and Pretoria Minutes had been released. A considerable number of political prisoners were still in jail — Political Staff and Own Correspondent

Just the ²⁵³ same old Island ^{w/mand} mentality ^{14/6-20/6/91}

The political prisoners may have left Robben Island but the state is still intent on maintaining the island penitentiary, reports

GAYE DAVIS

SOME of the journalists on the Robben Island tour-bus last week, weary of details of the number of trees and buck on the island, asked to see the quarry where Nelson Mandela and other African National Congress veterans worked the skin off their hands in the early 1960s.

Meeting this simple request proved beyond the means of the Department of Correctional Services staffers leading the tour.

"It was so long ago — none of us were here then, you see," a prison official said.

At the slate-grey fortress where Mandela and others spent a third of their lives, a similar amnesia prevailed.

To hear the prisons staff talk, life on the island was a breeze. Lots of fresh air, one's own radio, books, newspaper, even TV. Just the hassle of being in jail — and not a bad jail at that.

No mention of other, darker, aspects of life on the island — or the long struggle political prisoners themselves fought over the years to improve what once were desperate conditions.

Not a performance to persuade anyone that Robben Island's heritage and history are in safe hands — despite Minister of Justice Kobie Coetsee's assertions that "we must protect this island as part of our heritage". Whose heritage, one might ask?

In a clear attempt to defuse a growing lobby of people pushing for Robben Island to end its days as a penal colony and become an asset serving all the country's people, Coetsee has made great play on the island's cultural, historical and ecological importance.

He has stressed that the government will not tolerate the island being "trampled" by people who don't care about its conservation.

But none of the current proposals for Robben Island could remotely be seen as a threat to the island's ecology. Instead, they are predicated on



THE BUCK STOPS HERE ... A schoolboy looks out of a window at the island's school for civilians

Photo: JUSTIN SHOLK

conserving and enriching it in partnership with the National Parks Board (NPB).

On February 15, just such a partnership was forged — but with the Department of Correctional Services. In fact, the department's relationship with the Parks Board is one of long-standing.

In parliament last month, Coetsee acknowledged "certain other interests", such as "the public's wanting to visit the island". He revealed that 29 000 people visited the island last year.

This gave the impression that the island was now open to all who wanted to visit it: closer scrutiny of the figures, however, shows that Robben Island is barely more accessible than it ever has been.

Of the 29 000 visitors, 1 344 belonged to youth groups; 2 159 were "interested in nature conservation and cultural and historical aspects of the island" and 620 were members of "ladies' clubs".

This means the bulk of the 29 000 would have been regular visitors — either to prisoners or warders and their families.

Why is the government so desper-

ate to retain control over Robben Island — which costs tax payers a fortune?

Maintaining an island penitentiary costs about three times as much as a mainland jail.

On Robben Island, an entire infrastructure — roads, a sewerage purification plant, power station, school, hospital — has to be maintained for a civilian community of about 500. Together, the island's two prisons accommodate only about 800 prisoners.

The island's budget for 1989/90 was R13-million — the biggest chunk of which went on running seven ferry boats. A return trip to Cape Town harbour and back costs about R240 in fuel alone. And because water on the island is unfit to drink, thousands of litres must be ferried across daily, along with food and other supplies.

Expenditure like this prompted the government, 10 years ago, to decide to phase out the island's prisons. The decision was reversed a few years later, ostensibly because the cost of building new prisons would be too high.

APARTHEID BAROMETER

POLITICAL PRISONERS

(253)

THE Human Rights Commission has identified a total of 972 prisoners "regarded by us as political prisoners in terms of the Pretoria Minute", still imprisoned on June 3 1991.

These include 284 political prisoners (24 classified as security prisoners, 80 security-related, 161 unrest-related and 19 death row prisoners) whom an Audit Committee—consisting of the HRC, Lawyers for Human Rights, the Political Prisoners Release Programme and the Department of Correctional Services—have agreed are candidates for release in terms of the Pretoria Minute. *w/Man 14/6-20/6/91*

According to the Ministry of Justice 1 036 prisoners have been released since the Pretoria Minute was signed and 284 are still being held.

HUNGER STRIKERS

(253)

THREE prisoners defined as "political" by the HRC were still on hunger strike yesterday, according to the organisation. Nathaniel Mbatha from Potchefstroom Prison, who was sentenced to eight years imprisonment for public violence last March, is on the 19th day of his hunger strike and is currently in hospital. ANC member Elias Shongwe (20), from Diepkloof Prison, was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for murder in November 1988. He is on the 28th day of his hunger strike and is currently being held at Baragwanath Hospital. George Mbanjane, an ANC member awaiting trial on charges of murder, attempted murder and contravening the Arms and Ammunition Act (arising from the death of a policeman in Soweto, and from a hand grenade attack on a police vehicle), is being held at Baragwanath Hospital and has completed 12 days of his hunger strike. *w/Man 14/6-20/6/91*

According to the Mafikeng Anti-Repression Forum a "mass hunger strike of over 150 political prisoners held at Bophuthatswana Central Prison at Rooigrond", begins tomorrow.

JUSTICE FIGURES

w/Man 14/6-20/6/91

THE Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Kobie Coetsee, released the following figures in parliament recently: ~~(253)~~

● 20 lawsuits were brought against him in 1990 in his capacity as Minister of Justice—three for malicious prosecution, 15 for unlawful arrest or detention and two for defamation. Eight of these were settled out of court, two involved successful suits, two were withdrawn and eight claims are pending.

Land cleared for Pollsmoor growth

Municipal Reporter (253)

LAND beside Pollsmoor Prison, which has been occupied by squatters for years, has been cleared of people and bush "to facilitate the planning of a possible residential complex which will be coupled with the prison"

Mr Ken Snyman, deputy director of public relations for the Public Works Department, confirmed that the land was part of the prison complex, and it was therefore owned by his department

It is situated at the end of the Blue Route, on the Silvermine side of Pollsmoor Prison

News of the development coincided with the DP's statement that Pollsmoor, which is 122% overcrowded, is the most congested prison in the country

The DP's Justice spokesman, Mr Dave Dalling, told Parliament yesterday during the Correctional Services Amendment Bill that 110 000 prisoners were housed in South Africa's prisons, which could house 88 000 inmates

To wipe out the current backlog would set the country back at least R500bn

He said SA still had one of the highest prison populations in the world

15/6/91

Hunger strikers dig in Misery as comrade stays inside

By THEMBA KHUMALO

ELIAS Shongwe and George Mbanjana are the only political prisoners still on hunger strike at Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto — because they will not take seriously an impassioned plea by ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela for prisoners to end their fast.

The two said they would not call off their action until they were officially informed by senior ANC members about Mandela's call.

Although they had read about the call in newspapers they said they would not take it seriously until they were assured of their freedom by an ANC authority.

"We would rather die here," they said.

Shongwe, 21, a mem-

ber of the Thembisa Youth Congress on the East Rand, is serving a 10-year jail term for a necklace murder. He was convicted in October 1988 and is serving his sentence at Johannesburg Prison.

"What puzzles me is that my co-accused was released after he was indemnified in May and I was left out. The authorities are trying to divide us but they won't succeed."

Shongwe said he and Mbanjana were not defying Mandela's request but wanted official confirmation by the ANC.

"We respect Mandela very much but we can't rely on newspaper reports for ending our action."

Today Shongwe is on his 21st day without food while Mbanjana is entering his 24th. Shongwe

said he resumed his hunger strike on May 27 after he had read a statement by Correctional Services Minister Kobie Coetsee, saying all political prisoners had been freed and that the government would not bow to pressure by prisoners going on hunger strike.

"My first hunger strike was on May 1 and I suspended it 10 days later after Kobie Coetsee had promised to look into our applications for indemnity. His subsequent statement made me realise that unless I refused to take food again, I would not go home," Shongwe said.

Mbanjana is an ANC guerrilla from Welkom and is at Johannesburg Prison on charges of terrorism and two attempted murders.

Misery as comrade stays inside

By THEMBA KHUMALO

THE Pretoria Minute's October 8 deadline for indemnity on political offences has led to heart-break for some prisoners hoping for release.

Thabiso Tekane, for example, is bitter that unlike his ANC comrade and co-accused, Molefe Metsing, he has not been freed from prison.

Both men were indemnified on charges of terrorism and two attempted murders on Friday, June 7, after embarking on a 39-day hunger strike to demand their freedom.

Metsing was released exactly a week later. Tekane, however, must remain in prison to face nine attempted murder charges arising from a shootout he had with police in February this year.

He said the police told him he would not be indemnified for these charges because they took place after October 8 last year.

Tekane and Metsing, both of Soweto, were first arrested after a shootout with police in 1989.

They escaped from prison together in September last year but were later recaptured in January and February respectively.

Metsing limps from a leg wound he received while being arrested for the second time.

Tekane and Metsing were recruited together by the ANC in 1988 and have been together ever since, including in a prison cell and in a ward at Soweto's Baragwanath Hospital towards the end of their hunger strike.

Tekane said: "Molefe's departure is depressing but I hope to follow him to freedom soon."

1913

Hansard

MONDAY, 17 JUNE 1991

Hansard

1914

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs

(253)

Pretoria Minute: prisoners released

430 Mr F J LE ROUX asked the Minister of Correctional Services †

(a) How many prisoners have been released in terms of the Pretoria Minute since 6 August 1990, (b)(i) with what crime or crimes was each such prisoner charged and (ii) of what crime or crimes was each such prisoner convicted, (c) what punishment was imposed, in each case, and (d) how long was each such prisoner in prison?

B1129E

THE MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

(a) and (b)

I refer the hon member to my oral reply in the House of Assembly on 11 June 1991 to question number 2 (see col 1826)

(c) and (d)

Due to the extensive information required by the hon member with regard to each individual

case, it cannot be provided within the scope of this reply. However, should the hon member be interested in the details of a specific case he is most welcome to approach my office whereafter I will make the information available to him on a personal basis.

Vote: Trade and Industry

432 Mr L F STOFBERG asked the Minister of Trade and Industry and Tourism †

Whether, with regard to Vote No 20—Trade and Industry, he will subdivide the amount of R1 411 647 000 under Main Division 4—“Foreign trade relations and export promotion”, according to arms, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details?

(254)

B1137E

THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND TOURISM

The estimated expenditure under Programme 4 Foreign Trade Relations and Export Promotion, of Vote 20 Trade and Industry, is set out in detail in the Estimate of the Expenditure to be defrayed from State Revenue Account during the Financial Year ending 31 March 1992 (pp 20-11 to 20-14)

In addition, full details of the Department's activities in regard to this programme are contained in the Department's Annual Report for 1990

Both documents were presented to Parliament and the details are thus freely available

Prisoner is in hospital

253

Sowetan 9/6/91
ONE of Cape Town's former "release or die" hunger strikers has been admitted to Valkenberg Hospital for severe depression.

Atty Attazaxes-Phiri, serving 20 years for murdering two police informers, was admitted to the psychiatric hospital this week, said his lawyer, Mr Willie Hofmeyr.

Suspended

Phiri was one of seven Robben Island prisoners admitted to Somerset Hospital after they were weakened by going without food to demand their release.

He suspended his fast on the 24th day after a visit by ANC deputy president Mr Nelson Mandela, who gave hope that releases were imminent.

Phiri's co-accused, Chris Mofokeng, was set free. Phiri was taken back to Pollsmoor Prison.

Sapa

Not time yet to lift curbs - US

Sowetan 19/6/95

253

WASHINGTON - The US State Department yesterday said the repeal of the Population Registration Act meant that only one condition - the release of political prisoners - remained before US sanctions against South Africa could be lifted.

Spokesman Mr Richard Boucher said the repeal of the Act was a "historic moment" which signified the elimination of an "important pillar of apartheid".

"We welcome this positive development which should encourage all South Africans to move speedily into the process of negotiations on the country's political future."

The 1986 Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act specified that US

sanctions would be lifted once the president was able to report to Congress that South Africa had taken action to dismantle apartheid.

"The only condition remaining to be met is the release of all persons persecuted for their political beliefs or detained unduly without trial," Boucher said.

Prisoners

"This is a process which is still under way," he said

Boucher said South Africa had released more than 1 000 prisoners so far. The US Embassy in South Africa would follow developments closely to determine if all prisoners of conscience had been released, he said.

Congressional sources, asking not to be identified, said there was a

disagreement between the administration and many anti-apartheid activists on Capitol Hill who were advocating a hold-the-line policy on sanctions.

Mr Randall Robinson, head of the anti-apartheid group, Trans-Africa, said three of the legislative requirements for lifting the sanctions had not been fulfilled.

Robinson said there were between 2 000 and 3 000 political prisoners in South Africa. He also said there were more than 30 000 exiles who had not yet been given permission to return home.

In addition, Robinson said, the repeal of the Population Registration Act was not a breakthrough because it applied only to those born after the effective date of repeal. - Sapa-AP.

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Hunger strikers 'rushed back to jail'

(253) Aug 20/6/91

JOHANNESBURG — Prisoners recovering in hospital after calling off hunger strikes, initiated to demand their immediate release, are instead being rushed back to jail, according to the African National Congress

The ANC said some political prisoners had refused food for 38 days to highlight their continued incarceration "in spite of the agreement reached between the ANC and the government to release all political prisoners"

"These political prisoners hoped that reason would prevail and that the government would grant them the freedom they were promised"

Instead, the government, "with gross insensitivity", was rushing the recuperating hunger strikers back to jail in spite of physical and psychological damage caused by fasting

Jabu Masina, Ting Ting Masango and Neo Pot-sane, who spent the past weeks in Johannesburg

Hospital, had been told they would be returned to prison today, placing them under intense psychological stress, the ANC said

Other hunger strikers were suffering from severe depression. One former hunger striker, Atty Attaxes Phiri, had been admitted to Valkenberg psychiatric hospital with depression

These prisoners were clearly political prisoners in terms of the definition agreed with the government, the ANC said

"They are being used in a ruthless and cynical way as political pawns. We hold this government responsible for any physical or psychological damage to the health of these prisoners

"We call on the world community to take note of the government's callous treatment of political prisoners and its failure to meet recognised obligations. We will not rest until all political prisoners are released," the ANC statement said

Robben Island ⁽²⁵³⁾ ARG 26/6/91

'tour drawcard'

By DENNIS CRUYWAGEN
Political Staff

TOURS of Soweto and Robben Island could be a hit with tourists from Africa, says Mr Peter Hearfield, executive director of the Federated Liquor and Catering Association

Half the one million foreigners who visited South Africa each year were from Africa and represented an excellent base on which to build a bigger tourism market, he said

President De Klerk's breakthrough in Kenya and other African countries could herald a big influx of visitors

States north of the Zambesi were a more natural source of tourism than Europe, he said

"They are obviously closer than Europe and there is a natural affinity with South Africa which, after all, is an African state. There is bound to be a high degree of curiosity about the new South Africa as apartheid finally crumbles," Mr Hearfield said

Special interest tour and study groups were bound to start visiting South Africa and members of the middle and upper income groups were also expected to tour

South Africa held a considerable attraction for African

states with its technology, standard of living, vast choice of consumer goods and history

The country's wildlife attractions would not be such a big hit with African tourists

"Curiously enough there would be a lot of interest in the apartheid aspects of the country. Bizarre as it may seem, tours of Soweto and Robben Island may very well prove to be a drawcard"

"South Africans have been isolated from the rest of Africa for decades. The elimination of trade and political barriers should stimulate two-way tourism in general," said Mr Hearfield

Hauscerd

the various methods which can be employed to estimate future water demands, but water itself is not the limiting factor for the growth of the PWV Area, as water can be imported from elsewhere. With the rise in the standard of living of communities there is an increase in the water demand per person and the total demand can thus increase for many years even if the population remains constant. Should there be no supplementation of existing water supply sources in the future and should there be no implementation of water restrictions, it is estimated that about 12 million people in the Vaal River supply area could be supplied with water.

The following figures give an indication of the order of size of population growth for which provision was made in the water demand projections and the water resource development proposals.

| Year | Million people |
|------|----------------|
| 1980 | 8,6 |
| 1990 | 10,7 |
| 2000 | 13,5 |
| 2010 | 17,3 |
| 2020 | 22,4 |

According to expectations, about 65% of these people will be residing in the PWV Area.

(3) Not at all

Vote No 28: Programme 3

456 Mr J J C BOTHA asked the Minister of Development Aid +

Whether, with regard to Vote No 28—Development Aid, he will subdivide the amount of R5 504 477 000 under Programme 3—"Assistance to governments of self-governing territories", according to aims, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details?

B1184E

Hauscerd

The MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AID

The aims of the allocation of funds are described in detail on page 28-9 of the Department's Vote

The amounts involved are as follows

| | | |
|---|---------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Manpower assistance | R189 174 000 |
| 2 | Additional amount | R5 303 986 000 |
| 3 | Project Aid | R11 317 000 |

The further subdivision of the amount Additional amount is not possible

Prisoners/hunger strikers' particulars

457 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Correctional Services

(1) Whether he will furnish the names and other particulars of (a) all prisoners who have been refused release by the Government and (b) the hunger strikers who are not political prisoners, if not, why not, if so,

(2) (a) in respect of the prisoners who have been refused release by the Government, (i) what are their names, (ii) of what crime or crimes was each convicted and (iii) on what date did each apply for release and (b) in respect of the above-mentioned hunger strikers, (i) what are their names and (ii) of what crime or crimes was each convicted?

B1185E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

(1) and (2)

Due to the extensive information required by the hon member with regard to each individual case, it cannot be provided within the scope of this reply. However, should the hon member be interested in the details of a specific case he is most welcome to approach my office whereafter I will make the information available to him on a personal basis.

I would however like to mention that since 2 February 1990 and up to and including 18 June 1991 a total of 1 040 security and security/unrest related prisoners have been released in terms of the various measures available but particularly as a result of the categories announced by the Government, the

granting of special remission by the State President and as a result of the approved applications

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Since 7 November 1990 a total of 6 272 applications for release by prisoners have been registered at the office for Indemnity Immunity and Release in Pretoria. It is important to note that 5 152 of these applications were received after 30 April 1991. At least 90% of the applications received after 30 April 1991 fall outside the guide-lines for defining political offences and in fact appear to be designed to frustrate the process.

Out of the total number of applications received

- 621 prisoners were released,
- 583 applications have been referred to the consulting bodies for advice (363 of these applications were refused by the State President but nevertheless referred to the consulting bodies of judges for review and advice. The consulting bodies have already concurred with 155 of these refusals),
- 2 502 applications were refused,
- 79 were duplicate applications,
- 109 were applications by prisoners who committed their crimes after the cut off date of 12h00 on 8 October 1990, and
- the remaining 2 315 of these applications are at present being dealt with.

It is important to note that the applications of those who clearly fall outside the guide-lines for defining political offences are refused whilst the applications of those who nevertheless claim that they fall within these guide-lines and where doubt may exist are referred to the consulting bodies for advice.

Own Affairs

Education budget' details

85 Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Culture

What (a) amount and (b) percentage of the education budget of his Department was spent in (i) the Republic (ii) the Orange Free State and (iii) Natal on (aa) pre-primary, (bb) primary, (cc) secondary and (dd) tertiary education during the latest specified 12-month period for which figures are available?

B1114E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

| (a) | | (b) | |
|------------|--------------------|------------|--------|
| (i) (aa) | R83 278 million | (i) (aa) | 1,50% |
| (ii) (aa) | R7 049 million | (ii) (aa) | 0,13% |
| (iii) (aa) | R15 671 million | (iii) (aa) | 0,28% |
| (i) (bb) | R1 277 725 million | (i) (bb) | 23,09% |
| (ii) (bb) | R129 539 million | (ii) (bb) | 2,34% |
| (iii) (bb) | R155 018 million | (iii) (bb) | 2,80% |
| (i) (cc) | R1 205 002 million | (i) (cc) | 21,77% |
| (ii) (cc) | R92 386 million | (ii) (cc) | 1,67% |
| (iii) (cc) | R143 991 million | (iii) (cc) | 2,60% |
| (i) (dd) | R130 041 million | (i) (dd) | 2,35% |
| (ii) (dd) | R5 600 million | (ii) (dd) | 0,10% |
| (iii) (dd) | R14 186 million | (iii) (dd) | 0,26% |

Information in respect of Public Ordinary School Education and teacher training only, according to the 1990/91 printed budget (CS-sector)

Certain school's management board meeting pamphlet

88 Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education and Culture +

(1) Whether, immediately prior to a management board meeting at a certain school, particulars of which have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, a pamphlet was distributed on the grounds of this school, if so, (a) in terms of what regulations and/or directives, (b) with whose permission, (c) what are the particulars of the incident and (d) what is the name of the school concerned,

(2) whether his Department is contemplating any action in this regard, if not, why not, if so, (a) what action and (b) when,

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B1201E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

(1) Yes,

Amnesties: HRC role is over

THE Human Rights Commission, which played a leading role in the release of political prisoners, has been dropped from negotiations

Justice and Correctional Services Minister Kobie Coetsee said the ANC had agreed to deal directly with government and form a "scrutiny committee" comprising only the ANC and the government.

The ANC had agreed that the Audit Committee,

of Times 30/6/91
Sunday Times Reporter

which included the HRC, had no further function in deciding which prisoners qualified for release under the Pretoria Minute, he said.

However, ANC spokesman Gill Marcus said Mr Coetsee's announcement had come as a complete surprise. At no stage had the ANC agreed to the HRC being dropped, she said.

Most of the names on the list submitted by the ANC for indemnification were supplied by the HRC

The HRC was formed with representatives from various anti-government organisations after the 1988 banning of the Detainees' Parent Support Committee, a group established to press for the release of political detainees.

Repression

The HRC functions as a monitoring and research group focusing on repression, according to Miss Safoora Sadek, a spokesman.

While the organisation is independent of the ANC, a number of its commissioners are members of the ANC.

They are

● Albertina Sisulu, a member of the ANC's Women's League;

● Human rights lawyer Geoff Budlander;

● Black Sash vice-chairman, Mary Burton;

● Cape Town lawyer and member of the ANC's Constitutional Commission, Dullah Omar;

● Durban Advocate Pius Langa, nominated for election to the ANC's NEC. He represented Winnie Mandela in her recent trial;

● Cosatu deputy-president, Chris Dlamini;

● Dr Max Coleman, an activist and formerly a leading light in the DPSC;

● Joyce Mabudafhasi, a human rights campaigner and member of the Northern Transvaal ANC;

● Dr Diliza Mji of the National Medical and Dental Association;

● Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa, head of the Institute of Contextual Theology

Hostages of red tape and selectivity

253

MORE than 900 political prisoners remain hostage to the bureaucratic red tape between the government and the African National Congress, according to the Human Rights Commission (HRC). The most controversial issue regarding the release of political prisoners is the definition of a political prisoner. According to the HRC, a political prisoner is a person in prison as a direct result of opposition to the system of apartheid. This opposition can take many forms, ranging from peaceful protest, to participating in political unrest, or opting for armed struggle.

As the wrangling over the definition of political prisoners continues, evidence of selective releases has emerged.

By Weekly Mail Reporter

release process, selective releases are being made within a group of prisoners or trialists, whereby only one or

two people charged in the same case are released, the rest remain in jail. These are some of the most striking examples

● The three "Delmas II" ANC guerrillas, Jabu Masina (40), Ting-Ting Masango (32) and Neo Potsane (31), were sentenced to death in March 1989 on 49 charges of murder, attempted murder, membership of a banned organisation and possession

of arms and ammunition. The three spent a year on death row and their death sentences were commuted to life imprisonment on appeal, when it was found that political motivation was decisive in influencing their actions. Despite having submitted indemnity application forms on May 15, they are still prisoners.

● Elias Shongwe (22), a member of the Tembisa Youth Congress, was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for murder in November 1988. He is still in jail although his co-accused, Innocent Sikakane, was granted indemnity while on hunger strike and has been released. Shongwe has himself embarked on a hunger strike, which on Friday entered its 26th day.

● Bongani Mazibuko and Elias Phasha, members of the Paper, Printing, Wood and Allied Workers Union, are serving 11 and seven years respectively on charges of murder and intimidation. Co-accused David Malebala was released in May 1991.

● The "Numsa Six" — Bhengu Dumiseni (25), Malvert Ngubane (40), Sipho Mtshali (35), Richard Ngobeni (38), Samuel Molepo (39) and Malan Khumalo (35) — were arrested in May 1990 and held without charge for eight months. On December 24 1990, they embarked on a hunger strike and after 19 days they were charged.

However, there appears to be some confusion about the nature of the charges. The six have requested clarification from the attorney-general, but have received no reply.

■ BULELWA PAYI reports from Grahamstown that Umkhonto weSizwe cadre Marion Sparg says her recent release was "orchestrated by someone wishing to give the impression that the government was really serious about releasing political prisoners".

Sparg said while she and three other "high-profile white members" of Umkhonto had been released, "hundreds of black comrades jailed for exactly the same activities still languish in prison cells and hospital beds".

Sparg, who is now the ANC's information officer in the Border area, was jailed for 25 years in 1986 for treason and arson, but was released in April.

Release All Political Prisoners!



While the government sets about the task of removing apartheid legislation from the statute book, the prisoners of apartheid are still languishing in the country's jails. Some of them are under sentence of death.

All the deadlines, by whatever interpretation, have passed.

W/M out 21/6 - 27/6/91

There is no justification for any political prisoner to still be in jail for activities committed before the cut-off date. Yet the government seeks to redefine its own agreements: It claims that some of these prisoners are murderers and therefore do not qualify for release.

In terms of accepted agreements, political prisoners are entitled to be released. Their activities were in the context of the struggle against apartheid. We see no reason to deviate from the Namibian criteria on the definition of a political prisoner. In the words of Jabu Masina in the 'Delmas 11' trial. '... were it not for apartheid, we would not be here.'

It is apartheid that decreed that freedom-fighters are criminals. That is apartheid's definition. It is apartheid that drove concerned and sensitive people to fight it through activities which resulted in their conviction and jailing. They are also victims of a system which has been labelled a crime against humanity.

NADEL demands that they should not be victimised any further. NADEL demands the release of all prisoners incarcerated because of their activities in opposition to apartheid.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS**



US defines 'political prisoner' 253

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration had a "private estimate" of the number of SA political prisoners whose release would trigger the repeal of most US sanctions, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said yesterday.

He defined these prisoners as those held for their "political views or expression of those views" but not "those who commit acts of violence for political reasons".

He made clear that although the administration intended to consult ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela further, it would stick by this definition even though the ANC did not agree with it.

Bush was also expected to discuss the issue with Inkatha president Mangosuthu

SIMON BARBER

Buthezi at the White House yesterday. Buthezi has already told leading Congressmen and Vice-President Dan Quayle he does not believe Pretoria is still holding any prisoners that fit the US definition.

Fitzwater declined to disclose the administration's estimate of the number of prisoners amid widespread speculation that Bush would sign an order lifting sanctions on July 15.

The administration has decided against sending a team of lawyers to SA to satisfy itself that prisoners it defines as political have been freed. The matter will be left to the US embassy.

B/Day 2/16/91

Mix-up over 'political prisoners'

Political Staff

MISUNDERSTANDING has broken out between the government and the ANC over a meeting on political prisoners

The ANC announced yesterday that the government and the ANC had agreed on the number of political prisoners still in jail

The Ministry of Justice, however, said "We are therefore completely at a loss on what basis the ANC has issued their media release"

Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee intended taking steps to clarify "the misunderstanding on the part of the ANC"

The ANC said it was agreed that 15 of the total of 987 pris-

253

oners were "clearcut cases of MK cadres who should be immediately released"

In terms of the agreement, the ANC said a further 284 prisoners qualified for immediate release in terms of the guidelines established by the audit committee

Those of the remaining 678 who had a sentence of not more than 12 years were to be immediately released in terms of the agreed formula of remission of one third of the sentence plus a further two years and eight months

The cases of those prisoners who do not fall into this category would be looked into as a matter of urgency by the scru-

tiny committee established for this purpose

The ministry, however, confirmed Mr Coetsee met executive members of the ANC

"Certain options were canvassed in order to solve the misunderstanding and misconception of the terms 'political prisoner'. Attention was also paid to possible practical solutions. Both sides were supposed to report back to their principals, as is usual

"The only firm arrangement was that the audit committee with the Human Rights Commission as an element has no further function and that the ANC themselves would take care of their own interests," the ministry said

ARG 2/16/91

US has list of SA political prisoners

From SIMON BARBER

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration has a "private estimate" of the number of South African political prisoners whose release would trigger the repeal of most US sanctions, White House spokesman Mr Marlin Fitzwater said yesterday.

He defined these prisoners as those held for their "political views or expression of those views" but not "those who commit acts of violence for political reasons".

The administration has decided against sending a team of lawyers to SA to satisfy itself that prisoners it defines as political have been freed. The matter will be left to the US embassy.

Sapa reports that the ANC disputed the government's claim that "all political prisoners who qualified for release in terms of the Pretoria Minute have been freed".

The ANC was reacting to claims by the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee

In a statement, the ANC said a meeting last week between the ANC and the government agreed there were 987 political prisoners.

Of these, 15 "clear-cut" cases of Umkhonto we Sizwe members and another 284 prisoners — identified as having been involved in mass activity but who qualified for immediate release in terms of the audit committee's guidelines, were still in jail.

"Of the remaining 678, all those who had less than a 12-year sentence, were to be released immediately in terms of the agreed formula of remission of one-third of the sentence, plus two years and eight months.

"The cases of those prisoners who do not fall into this category would be looked into as a matter of urgency by the Scrutiny Committee established for this purpose," the statement said.

CT 21/6/91

The Human Rights Commission is also counting prisoners and gives figures similar to those submitted by the ANC. It bases much of its research on press reports of trials and acknowledges that many of the prisoners it once thought were still in jail had in fact been released.

About 200 of the HRC names cannot be traced by the prisons service, and both sides are trying to clear up the confusion.

The Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, said in a statement last night that applications by 2 502 prisoners for release from jail as people allegedly serving sentences for politically related offences had been refused and 1 040 prisoners had been released.

He also said that consulting bodies had already agreed with President F W de Klerk's decision to refuse the release of 155 out of the 363 applications he had turned down, but had nevertheless referred to the consulting bodies.

Prisoners on ^(B) hunger strike in bid for release ^{ET 21/6/91}

JOHANNESBURG — At least 67 "political" prisoners and awaiting trialists are on hunger strike in South Africa, including one man who is on his 28th day without food

According to figures supplied yesterday by the left-leaning Human Rights Commission, however, an estimated 72 people are fasting for their release

The HRC said only one man, Mr George Mbanjane, was still on a hunger strike in Johannesburg

Mr Mbanjane, who is awaiting trial, is in Diepkloof Prison in Soweto

The remaining hunger strikers are all in Bophuthatswana's Rooigrond Prison, near Mmabatho

The HRC said it had learnt that one of the homeland hunger strikers, Solomon Bopolamo, 64, had started eating again. Bopolamo, who reportedly had kidney problems, earlier alleged he had not been visited by a doctor

Four new hunger strikers — Santo Banda, David Kopang, Claas Ditire and Daniel Kathebe — had reportedly joined the hunger strikers, although the HRC was not sure exactly when

In a statement released yesterday morning, the Bophuthatswana Department of Prisons said two hunger strikers had started eating again, while three prisoners had joined the campaign to be released.

The homeland statement put the number of "politicals" who were refusing to eat at 66

According to the HRC, only two district surgeons were attending to the hunger strikers

Concern over health of BOP hunger strikers

By Weekly Mail Reporter

CONCERN has been expressed over the medical treatment of some of the 68 political prisoners in Bophuthatswana who enter the seventh day of their hunger strike today.

The prisoners are demanding to be released in terms of the Pretoria Minute. The National Medical and Dental Association (Namda) said in a statement yesterday it had received reports of mismanagement of the prisoners.

It said Shadrack Moitswa (68), who had renal failure, had not been seen by a doctor. A Ramasege, who was vomiting blood, and Petrus Mothipe and Edward Gaotingwe, who had high blood pressure, had been seen by Dr MP Manyapelo on Monday but had not been seen or examined since.

Frans Mokomane and another hunger striker, who have been placed in isolation and have flu, have not been examined by a doctor, said Namda.

Bophuthatswana deputy commissioner of prisons Brigadier Sello Thooze said: "The affected prisoners are separated from others and monitored by medical officers and nursing staff each day. This is the prescribed routine in line with international practices."

Matikeng Anti-Repression Forum (Maref) member Paul Daphney said this week. "The prisoners maintain that the Pretoria Minute also binds the Bophuthatswana government because Bophuthatswana is, after all, part of South Africa."

The hunger strikers include former members of the elite National Guard



POLITICAL PRISONERS OR TRAITORS? ... Former National Guards arrested during the foiled 1988 Bophuthatswana coup are on hunger strike to demand their release under the Pretoria Minute

Photo: AFRAPIX

which staged the 1988 abortive coup, four African National Congress guerrillas convicted of possession of arms and ammunition, and nine Braklaagte residents. Among them are two prisoners well over age 60, Solomon Bopola-mo and Moitswa.

Sapa reports the leader of the foiled coup, Rocky Malebana-Metsing, was granted indemnity last Friday as part of the "on-going process" emanating from the Pretoria Minute and the Groote Schuur Minute.

The South African Justice Department said Malebana-Metsing had received indemnity for illegally leaving South Africa and undergoing training contrary to provisions of the Internal Security Act.

In an open letter to President FW de Klerk the prisoners said: "By partici-

ating in De Klerk's conference for peace, the Bophuthatswana government reiterated the fact that Bophuthatswana is part of South Africa. The Pretoria Minute is relevant to us

"We place the responsibility of our incarceration fully on the shoulders of your government and yourself. Our incarceration is anomalous to your government's actions in bringing a new South Africa."

Bophuthatswana Department of Information media officer Alwyn Viljoen said those who took part in the 1988 coup attempt were not political prisoners as they had been convicted of treason and were regarded as criminals.

Namda said the hot water supply had been cut to the hunger strikers' cells, some of them had been placed in isolation cells and all had been denied visits by family members

Maref publicity committee member Laura Taylor said Bophuthatswana's departments of health and prisons had refused, without giving reasons, to meet her organisation to discuss the plight of hunger strikers.

She said there were only two part-time district surgeons in Matikeng to treat more than 2 000 prisoners.

Maref has approached South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha and health department officials asking them to put pressure on the Bophuthatswana government to abide by an agreement reached by South Africa's departments of health, justice, law and order and the ANC, Namda and the South African Health Workers' Congress on the medical needs of the hunger strikers.

Not all are out of jails says ANC

253

[Handwritten mark]

Sowetan 21/6/91

THE ANC has disputed the Government's claim that all political prisoners who qualified for release in terms of the Pretoria Minute have been freed.

The ANC was reacting to claims by Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee amid reports the release of prisoners was the remaining obstacle to the lifting of sanctions by the United States.

In a statement yester-

day the ANC said a meeting last week between it and the Government agreed there were 987 political prisoners behind bars.

Of these, 15 "clear-cut" cases of Umkhonto we Sizwe cadres and another 284 prisoners identified as having been involved in mass activity but who qualified for immediate release in terms of the audit committee's guidelines - were still in jail.

"Of the remaining 678, all those who had less than a 12-year sentence were to be released immediately in terms of the agreed formula of remission of one third of the sentence, plus two years and eight months.

"The cases of those prisoners who do not fall into this category would be looked into as a matter of urgency by the scrutiny committee established for this purpose," the statement said. - Sapa.

SIX Numsa members awaiting trial have resumed their hunger strike.

And three "Delmas 11" prisoners have said they are prepared to resume their hunger strike to demand their release and to protest against their return to prison from the Johannesburg Hospital yesterday afternoon.

Numsa 6 start third hunger strike in jail

Bhengu Dumiseni (25), Malvert Ngubane (40), Siphoshe Mshali (35), Richard Ngobeni (38), Samuel Molepo (39) and Malan Khumalo (35) were arrested in May last year. The charges against them are, says Sapa, "unclear".

In a statement, the "Numsa 6" said "As of today (June 19) we are resuming our hunger strike. We are not prepared to go back to jail.

"We were held for a long time without charge or trial. Now that the State has finally agreed to charge us, they are refusing us bail. This is despite the fact that we are political prisoners."

The three "Delmas 11" prisoners, who suspended their 38-day hunger strike on June 8 in response to a call from ANC leader Nelson Mandela, were taken to Diepkloof Prison just after 2 pm yesterday.

Umkhonto we Sizwe guerrillas Neo-Potsane (31), Jabu

banned organisation

After an appeal and three years on Death Row, their sentences were commuted to life imprisonment. They submitted indemnity applications last month.

One of the prison officials who accompanied the three prisoners threatened to smash a Saturday Star photographer's camera if he attempted to take photographs.

The prison official said to be in charge, a "Lieutenant Bond", refused to allow a reporter access to the prisoners, saying "You should familiarise yourself with section 44 of the Prisons Act."

Star 22/6/91

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SUE OLSWANG and SAPA

who were trained outside the country"

Masina (40) and Ting-Ting Masango (32) left the Johannesburg Hospital, according to sources, "depressed but determined".

"Obviously, they are still hoping for their release," said one source. "The Government has claimed they are not political prisoners, but they are ANC cadres

Sapa reports that the three released a handwritten statement to reporters as they left the hospital. The statement said: "After our 37-day hunger strike, the authorities are sending us back to prison in spite of the fact that we haven't fully recuperated."

"We therefore reiterate our earlier statement that should we deem it necessary, we shall again resume

our fast with even more tenacity

"We cannot, after so many days of our hunger strike, bear the thought of going back to prison with so little said and done by the Government, other than that we are criminals and rapists."

The three prisoners were sentenced to death in March 1989 on charges of murder, attempted murder, possession of arms and ammunition and membership of a

Hunger strikers for hospital

MAFIKENG — Three Bophelong Hospital doctors recommended that five hunger-striking prisoners at Bophuthatswana's Central Prison be transferred to the hospital for treatment.

This followed their examination of all the hunger strikers at the prison.

One of the hunger strikers has been put on a drip.

The medical examination was the first at the prison since the prisoners and awaiting trialists began their fasts for freedom, said lawyer Mr George Sefora.

This followed the prison authorities' reinstatement of all prisoner privileges to hunger strikers on Thursday, he said.

Twenty-three prisoners began their hunger strikes at the prison on Satur-

day, and were joined by scores more on Monday. There are an estimated 70 hunger-striking prisoners at prisons in the homeland.

From Johannesburg it is reported that six National Union of Metal Workers awaiting-trial prisoners who were returned to Diepkloof Prison earlier this week, have embarked on their third hunger strike in six months. In a handwritten letter, they said: "We suspended our hunger strike some time ago, but as of today, we are resuming it. We are not prepared to go back to jail."

"We have been in jail for 13 months now. We were held for a long time without charge or trial. Now that the State has finally agreed to charge us, they are refusing us bail." — Sapa

women's League member, was fire-bombed. Her 13-

Numsa 6 start third hunger strike in jail

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SUE OLSWANG and A2 SAPA

NUMSA 6

the source would lay bare the move would lay bare the

Bush drops prisoner bombshell

253
Star 22/6/91
DENNIS CRUYWAGEN, TOS WENTZEL and Sapa-AP

THE Bush administration's redefinition of "political prisoners" — excluding those who have committed acts of violence for political reasons — has added a new dimension to the row between the Government and the ANC over releases.

The ANC rejected the Government's view that

all political prisoners who qualified for release in terms of the Pretoria Minute had been freed. It called for immediate release of the "remaining 987 prisoners".

In Parliament on Thursday, Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee said that at least 90 percent of the 5 152 applications for release received by the Department of Justice and Correctional Services since April 30 this year fell outside the guidelines for defining political offences.

In a written reply to David Dalling (MP Sandton), he said these applications appeared to be designed to "frustrate the process".

Since February 1991, up to and including June 18, 1 040 security and unrest-related prisoners had been released in terms of the various measures available.

"Since November 1990 a total of 6 272 applications for release by prisoners have been registered at the Pretoria office for Indemnity, Immunity and Release. Of the 6 272, 5 152 were received after April 30 this year."

Of the total applications received, 621 prisoners were released, 583 applications were referred to the consulting bodies for advice, 2 502 applications were refused, 79 were duplicate applications, 109 were applications by prisoners who committed crimes after the cut-off date of October 8, 1990, and the remaining 2 315 applications were being dealt with

Agreement

The ANC claimed later on Thursday that it had reached agreement on political prisoners last week in discussions with the "relevant Government structures". It said it was agreed that:

- There were 987 remaining political prisoners.

- Of these, 15 were clear-cut cases of MK cadres still in jail who should be freed immediately.

- A total of 284 prisoners were identified as being involved in mass activity, qualifying for immediate release in terms of the guidelines established by the Audit Committee.

- Of the remaining 678, all those who had a sentence of not more than 12 years were to be immediately released in terms of the formula agreed of remission of one third of sentence, plus two years, eight months.

- The cases of those prisoners who did not fall into this category would be investigated urgently by the Scrutiny Committee established for this purpose.

Given this agreement, the ANC said, it found

● TO PAGE 2.

Prisoners

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● FROM PAGE 1.

"quite incomprehensible" Mr Coetsee's statement that all political prisoners who qualified for release in terms of the Pretoria Minute had indeed been freed.

Replying to the ANC press release, the Justice Ministry said Mr Coetsee intended to take steps to clarify the ANC's "misunderstanding" of the numbers of remaining political prisoners.

Referring to the alleged "agreement" reached between the Government and the ANC last Thursday, the ministry said Mr Coetsee was "completely at a loss" as to the basis of the ANC's press release.

"During meetings between Mr Coetsee and members of the ANC Executive, and others, the only firm arrangement was that the audit committee, with the Human Rights Commission as an element, had to further function and that the ANC themselves would take care of their own interests.

"Hence the establishment of a possible committee to scrutinise certain applications for release."

According to President de Klerk, the dispute between the Government and the ANC is about the validity or

reasonableness of many of the applications.

Every case had to be seriously considered because it could discredit the entire judicial system, principles of criminal justice and the rule of law if prisoners were simply released indiscriminately.

He said this week there was no delay in this process. The mechanism agreed upon was in place and functioning well.

In Washington this week, Inkatha Freedom Party leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi was assured by President Bush that he would move to lift sanctions soon.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, speaking after the meeting, said the administration would use its own definition of political prisoners — and not the broader one used by the ANC — in deciding when to lift the sanctions.

"There is a disagreement on the question of defining political prisoners to include those who have committed violence. In our definition we do not, the ANC does," Mr Fitzwater said.

"Our definition of political prisoner is someone who is arrested for his political views or expression of those views. But it excludes those who commit acts of violence for political reasons."

Diary of a hunger striker

C/Pres 22/6/91

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TODAY is Workers' Day, the anniversary of my wedding and the day I commence my hunger strike to try and secure my release from prison.

Weeks and months of uncertainty have come to an end. I now know that I am not going to be released in terms of the Pretoria Minute agreement between my organisation and De Klerk's government.

It has taken me hours of soul-searching, but I realise that there is no other solution. The only way out of this hellhole is via the starvation method. My mind is made up. Death or release.

This was my diary entry on May 1 1991, the day the remaining political prisoners on Robben Island began the hunger strike.

The government was flagrantly disregarding the agreement it had reached with the ANC regarding the release of political prisoners. The message was clear. We were to be used as bargaining chips.

It's the third day of the hunger strike. The pangs of hunger become more severe. Any food would be palatable - even the detestable prison soya mince sounds appealing.

The first three days of the hunger strike were the worst. The remaining nutrients in my body diminished rapidly during this period. I had already lost eight kilograms and my mind was beginning to feel mushy.

The attitude of prison staff changed. Attempts had been made by the prison authorities to transfer us from the Island to Pollsmoor Prison on the mainland. We were asked by the head of the prison, a Colonel Van Niekerk, to co-operate with them, but we refused.

Natal journalist Rafiq Rohan, a member of the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto weSizwe, was sentenced on 12 April 1990 to an effective 15 years' imprisonment for sabotage after being found guilty of bombing the Natal Command military headquarters in Durban. Due to be released in 2005, Rafiq was freed on May 24 this year after a 20-day hunger strike to force his release in terms of the agreement reached between the government and the ANC regarding the release of political prisoners. Rohan writes of his experience during the strike on Robben Island.

It was clear to us that they wanted the remaining political prisoners transferred in an attempt to draw public attention away from the Island.

It was also clear the transfer formed part of the plan to disperse us and place us in the midst of ordinary criminal prisoners in an attempt to criminalise us.

This set the stage for the nerve game that ensued. All privileges that we as political prisoners were accorded, like extra visits, telephone calls and access to legal representatives, were withdrawn.

The seventh day of the hunger strike I suddenly woke up at 4am after a bad dream that I was drowning. It was a weird and scary feeling. My entire body felt lame.

"At 7am, feeling very, very weak I

crawled out of bed to have my breakfast - a glass of water!

"Later in the afternoon my stomach ulcers started playing up. My entire stomach region felt like a burning cauldron but I was too afraid to take any medication."

"Day 12 I went to bed early last night but I fought against falling asleep. I have reached the point where I am petrified about falling asleep for fear of not waking up alive the following day."

"I'm experiencing great difficulty in taking in water - I've become so tired of the tasteless fluid. Weighed myself and found that I've lost 12 kilograms."

"I'm called for a medical examination and the results show that there is blood in my urine. I'm told that I'm to be transferred to Somer-

set Hospital

"I was escorted by heavily armed warders to a hospital ward and on entering saw five comrades - Peter Khube, Thabo Memela, Gordon Webster, Atte Phiri and Chris Mofokeng - all shackled to their beds. They told me that they had been in shackles for the past five days."

"I protested to the warder saying shackles represented a violation in terms of the Tokyo Declaration governing the rights of hunger strikers."

"It was fortuitous that Chris received a visit from a friend, Colleen Crouser, who reported our plight to the ANC. A few hours after she had left warders angrily came to us and removed the shackles."

I could gauge from my first night at the hospital that the doctors and nursing staff were not only sympathetic towards us, but also supporters of our cause. This friendly treatment upset the warders no end.

The warders now treated us with open hostility and resorted to taunting and tantalising us with their food. They would come on duty with huge food parcels and sit in front of us scoffing roast chicken.

By the 18th day I was completely bedridden. I could not walk unaided,

my vision was blurred, I could not think and talk coherently, doctors had detected an abnormality in my kidneys and I was still passing blood in my urine. My veins had collapsed due to my body being dehydrated and blood tests had to be carried out using blood drawn from my arteries. I firmly believed by the 18th day that I would be released in a body bag.

"It's Sunday today, the nineteenth day of starvation. I'm feeling weak and dizzy. My sister, Charmaine, flew in from Durban to visit me. I pretended to be strong so she would not leave overly worried, but I don't think I was too successful."

The 20th day was the last day of my strike. Another of my lawyers, Ibrahim Mohamed, visited me and told me that he had spoken to Judge Leon, who headed the committee to decide whether I would be released or not. The judge had told him that my matter would only be heard from June 11, 1991.

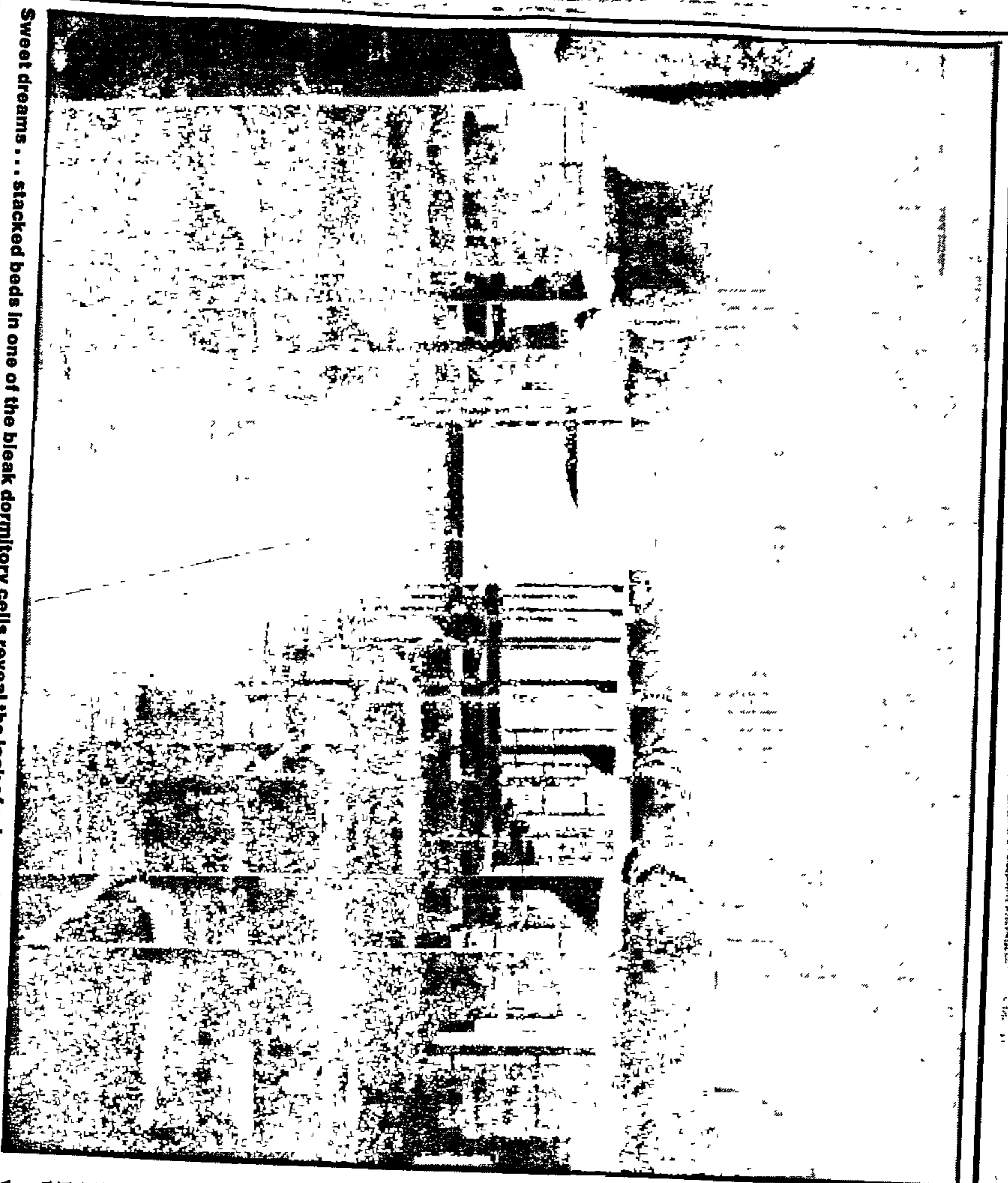
By that date I would have been on hunger strike for 43 days and probably dead.

From about 8pm there seemed to be a lot of activity around the ward with the officer in charge continuously being called to the telephone. I lay in bed confused. At about 10.58pm I told myself that I had been hallucinating and took a valium to sleep. At exactly 11pm a high ranking officer came up to me and said "I have pleasure in informing you that you are to be immediately and unconditionally released."

My immediate reaction was one of disbelief. Then, for the first time in years, I broke down and sobbed like a little child -AIA

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Starved himself for freedom... Rafiq Rohan hugs a well-wisher on his release from prison after he spent 20 days on hunger strike.



Sweet dreams . . . stacked beds in one of the bleak dormitory cells reveal the lack of privacy the prisoners lived with.

YWCA report was incorrect

Hell is no

By DESMOND BLOW
Press 23/6/91

FORMER Robben Island prisoners will oppose any plan to convert it for recreational purposes, according to Ahmed "Kathy" Kathrada

Kathrada - one of the Rivonia trialists jailed with Nelson Mandela in 1964 - told City Press.

"We are against a place where we spent most of our youth in suffering being made a place of pleasure for morbid visitors to see how we were incarcerated."

Kathrada was commenting on the visit by journalists to the island when the Department of Correctional Services threw open the steel doors of the political prison for blacks for the first time in 10 years.

Different story

Speaking on June 13 - exactly 27 years since he, Nelson Mandela and six other Rivonia trialists arrived on the island - Kathrada's story differed in to that given to City Press and other newspapers the week before by the Department.

However, he agreed with the Department that in recent years, before the last prisoners were either released or removed from the maximum security prison of the island.



Walled in . . . a view of the p

Hell is no pleasure resort

City Press 23/6/91
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However, he agreed with the Department that in recent years, before the last prisoners were either released or removed from the maximum security prison on the island, that the treatment of political prisoners had become more lenient

Commanding officer Colonel Wessel van Niekerk has only been on the island two years and said he was unable to say whether the conditions he had described applied when the Rivonia Seven were in the cells

According to Kathrada they were not

Kathrada said the night they arrived on the island, after a flight in a Dakota from Pretoria's Waterkloof Air base, it was a cold, wet, and windy Cape winter's night

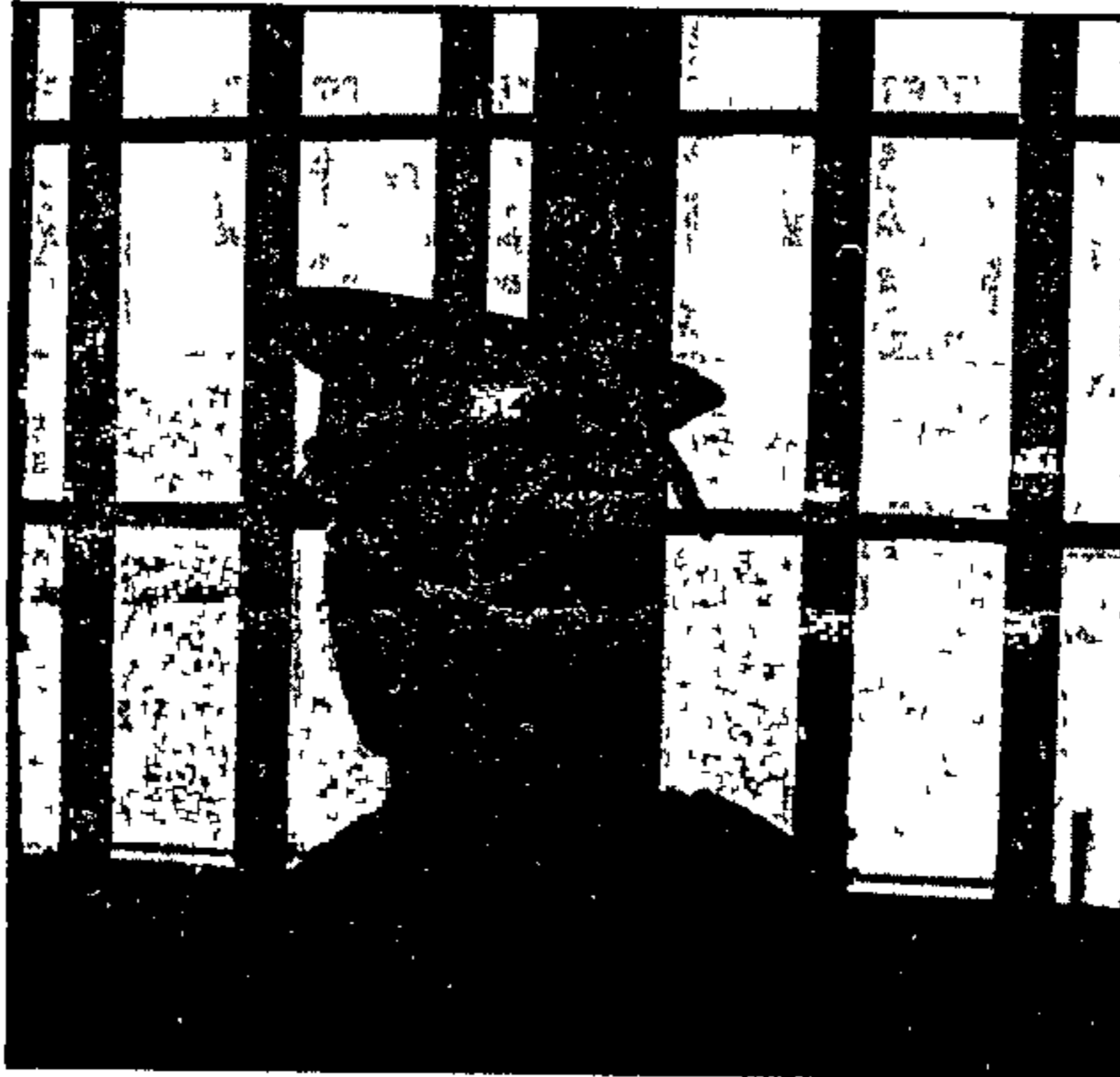
"We were shackled in pairs for the journey I was handcuffed to Govan Mbeki

"We were put in single cells immediately These were not however the cells the visiting journalists were shown as being our home for 18 years - those cells were still under construction when we arrived

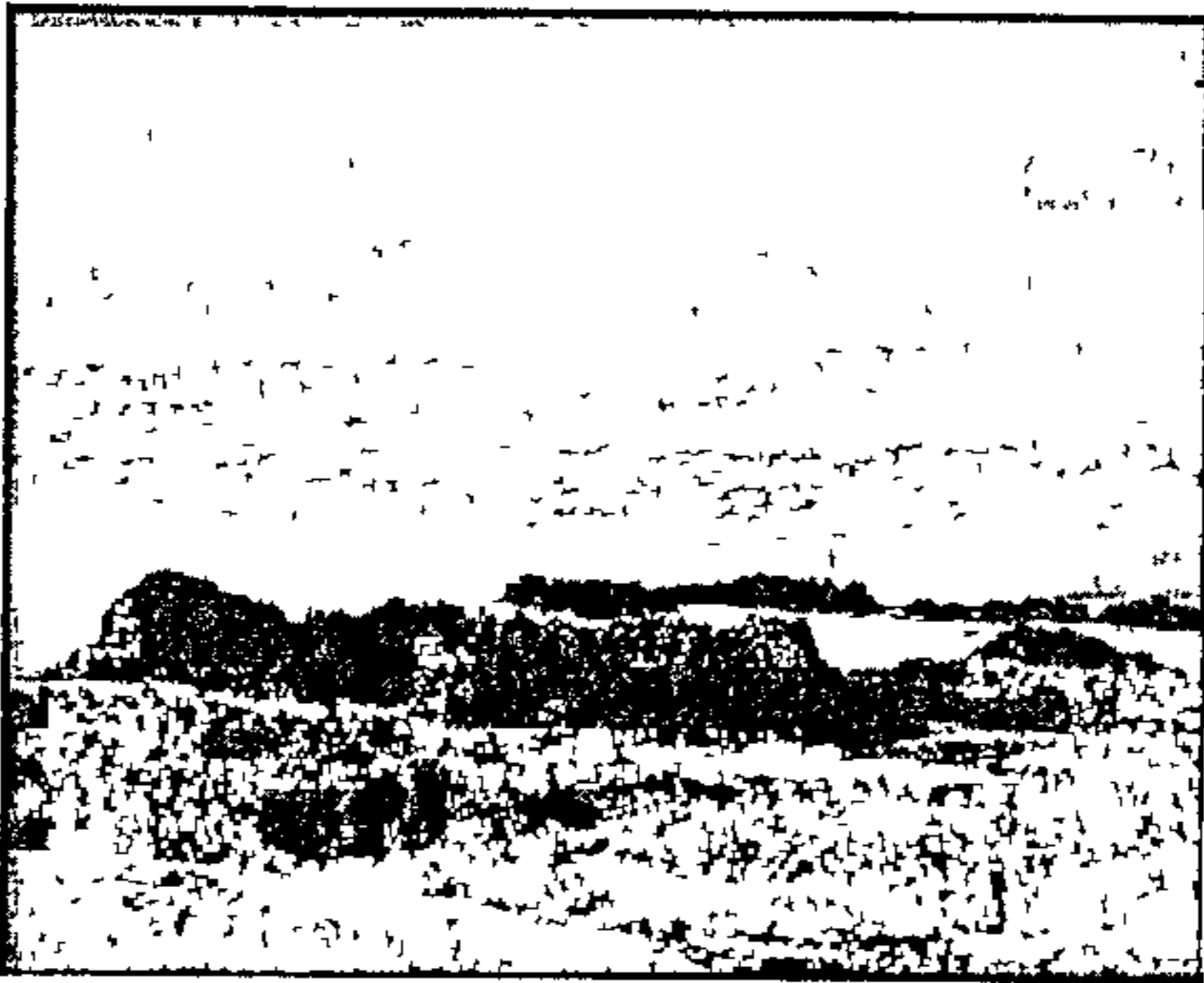
"Nor were there beds in them then, as there are today We slept on sisal mats on the floor and were given three blankets

"The only other things to be found in a cell were a toilet-bucket and a plastic bottle for water

"In those days there was a great deal of differ-



Walled in ... a view of the prison wall through a barred cell window.



Seascape ... on a clear day Bloubergstrand is visible from the island.

ence in the treatment of African and Indian and coloured prisoners No whites were ever jailed on the island

"As an Indian my prison clothing included trousers and shoes and socks Because they were categorised as "Bantu", my comrades were given only short pants and sandals and no socks

"They suffered more than I in the wintry weather, when, as was the case each and every morning, we were forced to break large rocks into gravel in the labour yard

"One day we were told we were going to do light labour in future in place of breaking rocks, and immediately given tattered prison jerseys to mend

"We welcomed this because breaking rocks was such hard work

"Soon after we began

to mend the jerseys we saw civilians photographing us from the catwalk above the yard

"We found out subsequently they were from the London based Daily Telegraph The photographs were sent around the world showing us doing light work

"They had no sooner departed the catwalk however than the jerseys were taken away from us and we were given our hammers back

"Our respite had lasted only a couple of hours"

"In January 1965, we were moved to the lime quarry to labour Quarry work with a pick and shovel was really tough on our hands - they would often bleed - and on our muscles, especially for the older men

"We worked an eight hour day at the quarry, until 1976

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"We would then eat a breakfast of dry porridge black coffee and soup

Of course there was a difference in the food provided for the various races Nelson Mandela for instance, got less sugar for his coffee than I did because he was categorised as African and I an Indian"

Kathrada said food was brought to the quarry at about 11 30am in cold drums

"Africans were given baked mealies for lunch whereas I, as an Indian, was given mealie rice

"Dinner arrived at 4pm, after we had been locked up for the night Africans were given porridge and soup I was given the same - but also bread and dripping and coffee

"We were given meat or fish ration three times a week Africans and Indians were both given this ration, but Africans got less

"At 3 30pm every weekday we were marched back to our cells from the quarry and made to shower in cold, brackish water, even in the middle of winter

We were locked in our cells from 4pm until 5 30am the next day It is untrue that our cell doors were left unlocked and we were allowed to mingle with other prisoners

"Those of us with money were allowed to purchase toiletries amounting to not more than R1 a month

"Until the mid-1970s we were allowed one visit every six months and two letters a year Newspapers and tobacco were forbidden

Censoring

"Letters were heavily censored A letter written to me in 1964 was withheld from me for 18 years because it mentioned the Labour Party had won the elections in Britain

"They wouldn't even tell us the Americans had landed on the moon

"But this did not prevent us from finding out what was going on in the outside world

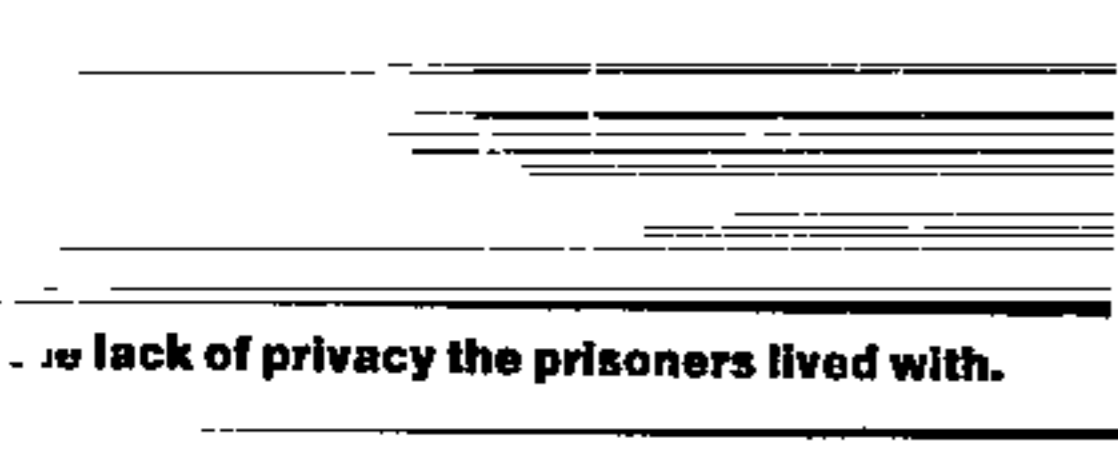
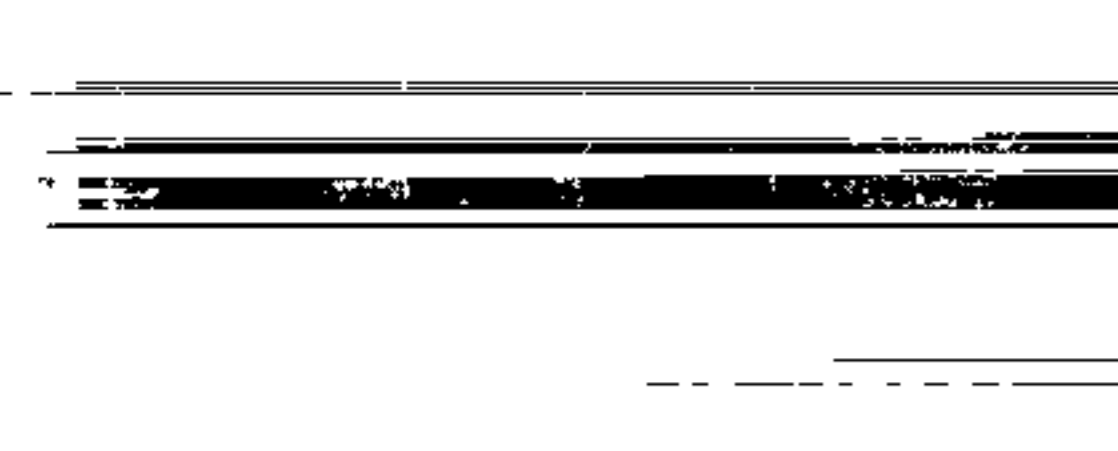
"Newspapers and even radios were smuggled into the prison"

Kathrada said those with money were allowed to study

"But we were not allowed to share writing materials or books with prisoners who could not afford to study

Kathrada said the prisoners "probably missed the presence of children most

"Child visitors were not allowed, and so for 20 years I never saw a child"



... lack of privacy the prisoners lived with.

inaccurate

Thirdly, your readers have been misled by the incorrect statement that the current fees are R380 a month The rates are actually R390 a month after they were increased by R60 from R330 last year

As a non-profit, non-subsidised and independently run community-based organisation, we have financial obligations and it is improper for anyone to expect the residence to operate at an unacceptable loss

For R390 a month the residents are provided with two meals on weekdays and three on weekends and public holidays This means they pay only R13 a day for meals, water, electricity and bed linen - Dr EK Khuzwayo, Mrs JN Seroke, Mr AM Ndatleng, Dube

We want Boesak

I WOULD like to call on Dr Allan Boesak to return to politics

I believe Boesak has a lot to offer this country As everybody knows he is an astute politician and can help solve our problems

South Africa really misses people of Boesak's calibre He has a good track record in fighting the forces of evil

We need him because nobody seems prepared to expose the the forces of darkness - Christopher Uoane, Chiawelo

The Editor
PO Box 3443
Johannesburg
2000

really is it!

understand why the critics

Masekela's "Sekunjalo" in Durban

... had to be seen to be enjoying good music they

star and part and parcel Hugh, humbled himself That on its own makes him

Government, ANC talk about prisoners

By TOS WENTZEL, Political Staff

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THE ANC and the government are having direct talks in Pretoria today to consider outstanding cases of political prisoners which are in dispute between the two parties

The two sides will meet in a scrutiny committee

ARGUS 24/6/91
The meeting was confirmed today by a spokesman for the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Kobie Coetsee

The government says all political prisoners complying with a definition agreed upon by the government and the ANC have been released

The ANC say it has a list of about 1 000 who are political prisoners and should be released

Today's meeting will be to scrutinise the difficult cases

In the end a final decision will lie with President De Klerk but according to a government spokesman doubtful cases will be referred to a review committee of judges

New bid to defuse row over political prisoners

Political Staff

(23) CT 24/6/91

THE row over the release of political prisoners — which has developed into a major disagreement between the government and the ANC and a block to the lifting of some sanctions — could be resolved this week.

Minister of Justice Mr Kobie Coetsee will today start five days of talks with the ANC on the issue and there have been reports that he will make a bold move to defuse the dispute.

He said last night on Agenda that "something positive" would come of this meeting.

The ANC claims there are still some 1 000 prisoners being held who qualify for release.

The government says there are only 300 cases still to be considered and they were all convicted of serious crimes such as murder, rape or robbery.

The ANC has said it is optimistic that the issue will be resolved this week, but warned that it will give the government only one more month to unravel the red tape surrounding the releases.

ANC representatives at the meeting will be reparation committee head Mr Jackie Selebi and legal department head Mr Penuel Maduna.

"The government must realise that the ANC will not enter into negotiations on a new constitution until each and every political prisoner is on the streets," an official said.

More talks on political prisoners

Political Staff

THE African National Congress and the government have held five hours of talks to try to resolve discrepancies about the number of political prisoners still being held

The Justice Department said the talks between ANC and government officials in Pretoria on the so-called "scrutinising committee" would resume tomorrow

Justice and Correctional Services Minister Kobie Coetsee had not taken part in the talks. No indication was given of progress

It is likely that the talks will last for some time

The committee has to reconcile a

discrepancy of about 700 between the ANC and the government's list of political prisoners

The government believes there are still about 300 prisoners who could be regarded as political

All have committed serious common-law crimes such as murder and robbery and are being considered for release individually by an indemnity committee

The ANC has presented the government with a list of over 1,000 prisoners it regards as political

The success of the talks could determine how quickly the United States starts to lift its main body of sanctions as the release of all political prisoners is one of the conditions

Govt, ANC hold talks on prisoners

PRETORIA — Government officials and the ANC were holding talks yesterday on political prisoners, a ministry of justice spokesman said

He said the talks, part of ongoing meetings, were being held at "officials' level" and could not confirm they might go on for several days

The Human Rights Commission (HRC), which monitors prisoner releases, yesterday criticised references to its statistics by Minister of Justice and Correctional Services Mr Kobie Coetsee

Mr Coetsee said on TV1's "Agenda" on Sunday that the government had defined 343 prisoners as "untraceables", 133 in neighbouring states

"The Human Rights Commission has incorporated this figure in their total

of 972 people (still detained as political prisoners)," he said

He said the HRC's figure of remaining prisoners went beyond what was agreed on with the ANC

The HRC said yesterday Mr Coetsee had wrongly interpreted the figures and that "in excess of 850 political prisoners" are being held

● Long-term prisoner Walter Jacobs, admitted to Baragwanath Hospital after going on a hunger strike, escaped from the hospital last week, a department of correctional services spokesman said yesterday

● Two hunger-striking Bophuthatswana prisoners have been transferred to hospital, homeland authorities said yesterday — Sapa

Prisoners: Chikane calls for backing

WILSON ZWANE

253

SA COUNCIL of Churches (SACC) general secretary the Rev Frank Chikane yesterday urged church leaders to throw their weight behind the campaign for the release of political prisoners.

In his report to the 23rd SACC national conference, Chikane said that as there were still disputes about the definition of political prisoners, church leaders should clarify their definition of "political prisoners to facilitate our campaign for their release".

10/26/69
Apart from the prisoner issue, other aspects of obstacles to a negotiated settlement had either been partially addressed or not acted upon.

One of the obstacles was government's failure to reach an agreement with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on a general amnesty to let exiles return "in safety and dignity".

"While the government would argue that it has indemnified many who have not returned (only 1 500 of about 8 000 indemnified exiles have returned to date), the reality is that they cannot return until the repatriation programme, in which the UNHCR will participate, is in place, Chikane said.

He said the SACC could not review its position on sanctions because the changes which President F W de Klerk had made were not irreversible.

Other speakers included Papal envoy Cardinal Roger Etchegarary and Anti-Apartheid Movement president Archbishop Trevor Huddleston.

**70 in prisons
hunger strikes**

JOHANNESBURG
Seventy prisoners in SA
and Bophuthatswana
are on hunger strike

The Human Rights
Commission said yester-
day 64 prisoners at Rooi-
grond Prison in Bo-
phuthatswana had not
eaten for 11 days and six
prisoners at Diepkloof
Prison in Johannesburg
for seven days — Sapa

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1/6/71

1/6/71

Guideline for treatment of SA hunger-strikers

253 FILE 26/6/91

By VIVIEN HORLER
Medical Reporter

A GUIDELINE for the treatment of hunger-strikers is being drawn up by representatives of the African National Congress, the Medical Association of South Africa, the police and the Prisons Department

Working as a group, the representatives have submitted the draft guideline to the Department of National Health

The move comes after widespread criticism of the management of hunger-strikers last month. Some are still fasting in their cells after three weeks.

In terms of the guideline, hunger-strikers who have fasted for more than two weeks, or who have lost more than 10 percent of their body weight, will be sent to non-prison hospitals.

Other points suggest that

● A code of ethics should be

distributed among all health authority workers who deal with hunger-strikers. In terms of this, no medical personnel may pressure on the hunger-striker to suspend the fast. Hunger-strikers should be given unconditional treatment and should have access to a second medical opinion. They should be told of the medical consequences of their actions.

● Hunger-strikers who lose more than 15 percent of their body weight or develop biochemical instability should be transferred to a "tertiary" hospital.

● Hunger-strikers should give permission for themselves to be hospitalised and should be told of their rights, the ethical obligations of doctors and how to complain.

● Should a hunger-striker refuse treatment or hospitalisation, the Human Rights Commission should be informed so as to arrange counselling.

Coetsee: 'Stop being a bureaucrat'

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South 27/6 - 3/7/91

THE Human Rights Commission (HRC) has appealed to the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Kobie Coetsee, to adopt a less bureaucratic approach to the issue of political prisoners

The appeal follows Coetsee's attack on the accuracy of HRC statistics when he responded last week to a United States declaration making the lifting of sanctions conditional on the release of political prisoners

Indemnity

Coetsee claimed that many of the prisoners on the HRC list "are clearly not prisoners in the American context or the context of the Pretoria Minute".

The Minute signed between the government and the ANC in August last year gives guidelines as to which categories of prisoners qualify for indemnity

The definition of "political prisoner" has been in dispute ever since and has become one of the major obstacles to negotiations.

Coetsee also claimed that names on

The Human Rights Commission has urged Minister of Justice Kobie Coetsee to stop being a "bureaucrat" on the issue of political prisoners. **HENRY LUDSKI** reports:

the HRC list of political prisoners did not correspond with his own records

The HRC responded angrily by blaming the Department of Correctional Services for the discrepancies

The HRC said that the department had managed to trace at least 100 prisoners in their records whom they initially had been unable to find

"We are convinced that more can be found by continuing the process, which we want to do," they said.

The HRC said that in terms of their count of 11 June, 972 political prisoners are still being held in South African jails

The commission said that, together

with the Department of Correctional Services, they had identified 284 prisoners who qualified for indemnity in terms of the government's categories of security, security-related, unrest-related and Death Row prisoners

The HRC said they were "completely at a loss to understand" Coetsee's claim that many of the prisoners did not qualify for release

The commission called on Coetsee to remove the logjam by shifting away from a "bureaucratic" approach and towards an administrative procedure which extended and broadened the categories whereby "hundreds can be released at the stroke of a pen"

70 prisoners are still on hunger strike

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Sowetan 27/6/91

A TOTAL of 70 political prisoners are on hunger strike in South African or homeland prisons, two of them in hospital, according to the latest Human Rights Commission bulletin.

Of these, 64 are in the 15th day of their hunger strike at Rooigrond Prison in Bophuthatswana and six are awaiting trialists at Diepkloof Prison, south of Johannesburg.

Seven of the hunger strikers at Rooigrond have suspended their protest, the HRC said.

Among those jailed in Bophuthatswana are soldier Jonathan Modisane

(25), imprisoned for eight years in 1989 for high treason, Blackmamba Monnana (37), who was sentenced to two years imprisonment in 1990 for public violence and Edward Gaotingwe (30), serving a two-year sentence for malicious damage to property.

Weapons

Frans Mokomane (29) was sentenced this year to seven years for possessing weapons, Petrus Mothupi (43) is serving a 15-year sentence for attempted murder under Bophuthatswana's Internal Security Act and Siphso Ramesega (27) has been jailed for public violence, the HRC said. - *Sowetan Correspondent.*

CT 27/6/91

Eight hunger strikers reported in hospital

JOHANNESBURG — Altogether 53 prisoners were on hunger strike in Bophuthatswana's Rooigrond Prison and a further six inmates were refusing food at Diepkloof Prison in Johannesburg, the Human Rights Commission said yesterday.

A statement from the HRC said that of these hunger strikers eight were in hospital (253)

Of the Rooigrond hunger strikers 48 have been fasting for 12 days and five for two days. The HRC said 16 prisoners suspended their fast on Tuesday.

It also said the hunger strikers at Rooigrond alleged that "the treatment recommended for them by doctors has been refused by the prison warders".

"The hunger strikers were also allegedly not given full medical check-ups when their weight was recorded. Three hunger strikers complained that drips were wrongly inserted in their arms, causing them to swell."

The HRC also said the wife of one of the fasting prisoners was harassed by the Bophuthatswana police when she went to visit her husband — Sapa

(253) CT 27/6/91
Indemnity for ANC cadres

JOHANNESBURG. — Indemnity has been granted to three ANC operatives in terms of the Pretoria Minute, according to the Government Gazette published yesterday.

They are Miss Enneth Webster, Mr Timothy Jenkin and Mr Benneth Mokoko. Ms Webster was wanted by the police for entering South Africa illegally in 1987, Mr Jenkins escaped from police custody in December 1979, and Mr Mokoko was wanted for an assault on a policeman in Thembalesizwe township in August last year. — Sapa

APARTHEID

HUNGER STRIKERS

A TOTAL of 59 prisoners around the country are on hunger strike. (253)

According to the Human Rights Commission (HRC), 48 political prisoners at the Rooigrond Prison in Bophuthatswana have been on hunger strike since June 15. Five others began fasting this week.

Eight of the hunger strikers are now in hospital, says the HRC. They are Patrick Cebisa (23), Johannes Simelane (33) — both on drips — Lawrence Mahula (44), Davies Mashego (27), Johannes Molefe (30), Michael Ranku (25), Zacharia Seabi (28) and Simon Lefakane (27). Six awaiting-trial prisoners at the Diepkloof Prison started a fast on June 19.

HARASSMENT

Hospitalised hunger striker Lawrence Mahula's wife, Botha, was detained by the Bophuthatswana security police when she tried to visit him this week. She was released five hours later.

W/ma-2 28/6 - 4/7/71

Bop 'removes' 29 hunger strikers

City Press 30/6/91

TWENTY NINE Bop hunger strikers were on Friday "forcibly removed" from the homeland's Bophelong Hospital near Mafikeng to different hospitals, according to reports received by the Human Rights Commission

City Press reported last week that 68 Bop political prisoners - all arrested by the SADF at the time of the aborted coup in the homeland in February 1988 - were on hunger strike. More coup prisoners were set to join the hunger strike to pressure the South African

Government to secure their release. Friday's incident took place at about 2.15pm, when Bop prison officials arrived at the hospital, allegedly without warning doctors.

They ordered 29 of the 33 prisoners in the hospital to pack their belongings.

Doctors told the prison officials the patients could not be moved, as some had "unrecordable blood pressure".

Fifteen hunger strikers were flown to a military base in Pretoria from where

they were moved to Odi Hospital, near GaRankuwa.

The other 14 hunger strikers were moved to the Victoria Hospital in Mafikeng - a private hospital. The four remaining hunger strikers were also allegedly told they would be moved.

The HRC said the reports indicated a complete disregard for the physical and mental health of Bop prisoners. The body said they feared for the lives of the hunger strikers, who were allegedly made to carry their own drips.

When Maki Skhosana was murdered by a mob in 1985, Archbishop Tutu threatened to leave the country. Now two of her attackers have been freed

THE horrific death of Miss Maki Skhosana, murdered on July 20 1985 outside a cemetery at Duduza, Nigel, shocked the world and led Archbishop Desmond Tutu to threaten to pack his bags and leave the country.

She was beaten, kicked, stoned and eventually set on fire by a crowd that believed her to be a police informer. Her death throes were captured on television and shown around the world.

Today two of the people who took part in the attack, Daniel Mbokwane and Linda Hlope, are free by government amnesty. A third, Sanna Twala, still waits in Kroonstad prison.

Her case is one of those before the "scrutiny committee" of government and ANC members that is wrestling over the status of the country's remaining political prisoners

Anomaly

The distinction between her and the other two has baffled her lawyers, who point to an Appeal Court ruling in May 1990 in which Mr Justice Hoexter concluded "I share the opinion of the trial judge that the three merit equal severity of punishment."

Twala's lawyer said "Twala's actions were, comparatively, less brutal than those of at least one of her co-accused. But he has been released."

The case is one of several that illustrate the anomaly of some members of groups being given amnesty while others who took part in the same acts remain in prison.



VIDEO THAT SHOCKED THE WORLD... Maki Skhosana's prostrate body is trampled by her angry assailants

By DAWN BARKHUIZEN

The Duduza killing took place during the funeral of four activists. There was, according to court records, a widely held belief among the people of Duduza that the four had been shot dead by policemen.

Thousands turned out for the funeral, including Miss Skhosana, who was rumoured to be a police informer and having a love affair with a policeman.

She was surrounded by a mob near the cemetery gates. Mbokwane, Hlope, and Twala took part in the assault in the following way:

● Mbokwane heard a

noise while inside the cemetery and went to investigate. Outside he found a group of people and, on pushing his way to the centre of the mob, found a woman on her knees with her hair and back aflame. People were kicking her and calling her an "impimpi".

Mbokwane, who knew the woman and had heard rumours that she was conspiring with the police, kicked her as she lay on her stomach. He was, he said, angry that she was a collaborator and intended causing her pain.

● Linda Hlope was

attracted away from the graveside by a group of people who were singing and chanting. For about five minutes he watched the crowd accuse their victim of being an informer and assault her until she lay motionless in the dust.

Thinking she was dead, he turned to leave, but then spotted a TV camera.

"I got excited, I wanted to appear on TV doing something," he told the court. "I found a big stone nearby and dropped it on her chest."

● Twala, a former nurse-aid from the Tienie Vorster Old Age Home in Nigel, had been in the last

and jumped on her prostrate body.

The person responsible for setting Miss Skhosana on fire was never caught.

None of the three were found to have initiated the attack, their lawyer said.

Pronouncing sentence, the judge had deemed any previous convictions for all three accused to be irrelevant and did not take them into account, Twala's attorney said.

In May 1990 the murder charges were set aside by the Appeal Court and changed to attempted murder. Sentences were reduced from life imprisonment to seven years.

Fatal

The judge found the accused could not be guilty of murder because it was impossible to determine who had delivered the fatal blow.

A spokesman for the Department of Correctional Services said "Prisoners Daniel Mbokwane and Linda Hlope were released after being given special remission and one-third remission of sentence."

"Due to the fact that Sanna Twala was not a first offender she will only qualify for release in September, unless other remedies become effective in the meantime."

He could not specify Twala's previous offence.