



MJ.21/22/1.

Ministerie van Justisie,
Ministry of Justice,

Uniegebou,
Union Buildings,

Pretoria.

- 3 -5- 1966

Dear Sir,

RE: CONDITIONS OF DETENTION: ROBERT M. SOBUKWE.

With reference to your letters of the 3rd February and 23rd March, 1966, I have been instructed by the Honourable the Minister of Justice to reply to your representations as follows:

(a) Loss of weight.

Sobukwe has lost eleven pounds of weight in two years. According to the District Medical Officer, this loss of weight can be explained by the chronic infection of his prostate gland.

(b) Painful joints, etc.

The District Medical Officer states that chronic prostatitis has been the cause of some minimal arthritic pains but there is no evidence of true Rheumatoid arthritis or joint deformity. This view is confirmed by physician specialist Dr. Barry Kaplan who examined Sobukwe on the 16th October, 1965. Dr. B. Kaplan assured Sobukwe that he is not suffering from arthritis. Sobukwe has received various analgesics for mild pains that he complained about.

(c) Chronic Prostatitis.

In October, 1964, Sobukwe has been treated for chronic prostatitis by the District Surgeon, urologist and by a physician specialist. He has been examined whenever he complained but at least monthly and his complaints have been treated. His case was finally assessed and surgery was recommended in December 1965. However, due to his wife's visit it was decided to postpone his operation until after her visit.

As you are probably aware, Sobukwe has had a prostatectomy and, according to the urologist who performed the operation, the operation has been successful.

(d) Teeth and eyes.

His teeth have given trouble at times but on each occasion a dentist attended to him.

Sobukwe has complained about his eyes and arrangements have been made for an eye specialist to test his eyes.

(e) "Sunday Times" and "Rand Daily Mail".

Copies of both the abovementioned newspapers have, on occasions, arrived late on the Island.

(f) Visits in living quarters.

Facilities for visitors exist at Robben Island harbour.

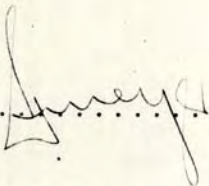
(g) Food parcels.

Only relatives are permitted to send food parcels to Sobukwe.

(h) London "Observer".

Sobukwe is entitled to receive South African newspapers and periodicals only.

Yours faithfully,



A handwritten signature in cursive script, written over a horizontal dotted line. The signature is difficult to decipher but appears to be a name starting with 'L' and ending with 'g'.

Mr. B. Pogrand,
804 Dormo,
van der Merwe Street,
JOHANNESBURG.

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