



This will be Robert Sobukwe's quarters on Robben Island as from tomorrow. He will have freedom of movement "within a large prescribed area."

Press to see him today

R.D.M
MAY 2, 1963

POLITICAL REPORTER

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

ROBERT SOBUKWE, former president of the banned Pan-Africanist Congress, is a prisoner on Robben Island and will be detained there after his sentence expires on Friday.

This was disclosed yesterday by the Minister of Justice, Mr. Vorster. Earlier in the day, Mr. Vorster's No-trial Bill had gone through its final stages after a rapid 10-day passage through both Houses of Parliament.

In his announcement, the Minister said Sobukwe would not be treated as an ordinary prisoner, but would have special quarters, right of movement, and leisure hours and could receive visitors weekly.

He will be the first political prisoner to be detained under one of the two jail-without-trial clauses in the Bill, which is expected to become law immediately.

Sobukwe, a former University of the Witwatersrand lecturer, led the P.A.C.'s 1960 campaign against the pass laws, and was sentenced to three years' imprisonment when convicted of incitement.

Press visit

Mr. Vorster said a small party of Press representatives and two M.P.s—Mr. Buks Fouche (Nat) and Mr. Michael Mitchell (U.P.) would be taken to see Sobukwe this morning.

The announcement yesterday said: "The Cabinet has decided that Robert Mangaleas Sobukwe, whose prison sentence expires on May 3, 1963, will be detained under the Suppression of Communism Act of 1950, as amended by the General Law Amendment Bill which has just been passed by Parliament.

Large area

"Instead of being imprisoned in a cell, he will henceforth live in quarters which up to the present have been occupied by Coloured warder trainees.

"He will have complete freedom of movement within a large prescribed area. Newspapers can be supplied to him, and he will be able to receive visitors weekly. He will by no means be treated like a prisoner, but receive special treatment in respect of food, movement, using leisure hours, hours of rising and retiring, clothing, etc."

Out of sight

A SAPA representative who visited Robben Island yesterday, said Sobukwe's quarters are completely away from the prison institution on the island and out of sight of it. He will not come into contact with convicts and will not even see them.

He will, in effect, be in the same position as a person under house arrest, except that the area to which he will be confined is much greater.

Robben Island, three square miles in extent, is five miles from the mainland.

From 1846 to 1931 it was used as a place of banishment for political prisoners and the in-

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