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Kimberley, South Africa

Robert Sobukwe who besides Nelson Mandela is the most important African leader in South Africa, thinks that time is running out for the whites.

After the break down of talks between Ian Smith and Nkomo in Rhodesia, he thinks there will be a black majority rule within a year and in South Africa within five years.

Sobukwe is convinced that a guerilla war will break out in the Southern Africa, it has started in Rhodesia and it will start in Namibia and spread to South-Africa. The fall of the Portugese colonial rule, African rule in Angola and Mocambique has started a movement which will spread across the whole of the southern Africa.

This tendency cannot be stopped unless the whites do something *dramatic* ~~drastic~~. The only action which could prevent a bloody upheaval, would be that the whites introduced democracy, votes for all and majority rule. Ian Smith has shown that the whites are not willing to do this, and the white nationalists in South Africa will not give up their privileges.

Sobukwe lives in an open prison i the diamond-town Kimberley. He is "banned" which means that he has been deported to this remote town. He was banned after being released from Robben Island in 1969. He cannot travel outside Kimberley, he has to be indoors from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. He cannot receive visitors, and he cannot be in groups with more than three persons at a time.

Sobukwe cannot publish articles or give statements to the press. He cannot be quoted. He graduated in economics while he was at Robben Island. In Kimberley he has studied law and got his degree. He works now as a lawyer, he defends Africans who are charged with theft, rape and ~~other~~ smaller crimes. The big, fat payments ~~are made~~ for big cases are reserved for white lawyers.

Robert Sobukwe was a member of ANC years ago, he broke away and formed his own organisation PAC because he felt that ANC was too much dominated by communists. He himself is an anti-communist who wants a socialist South Africa. He favours an African socialism of the same kind as Julius Nyerere ~~xxx~~ introduced to Tanzania. He wants to keep the democratic values like free speech, but at the same time he wants the community (state) to control the industry and the natural resources.

He does not want Henry Oppenheimer to continue to get all the profit from gold, but at the same time he thinks that Oppenheimer could be a good ~~x~~ director general in a state owned gold industry.

Robert Sobukwe is 51 years of age, tall built and in good physical shape. Three years in ordinary prison and six years ~~in~~ on Robben Island did not break him. On the island he was totally isolated, he never was able to meet with Nelson Mandela who ~~xxx~~ ^{is} there still. He kept his mental health by reading whatever book he could lay his hand on and by studying economics.

Robert Sobukwe is in no doubt that the Africans who are 18 million out of South Africa's 25 million inhabitants, soon will take over within short time, ~~Robert Sobukwe is in no doubt~~. Mocambique was the turning point, after that Angola. Next is Rhodesia and Namibia. Robert Sobukwe thinks that the guerillas in Rhodesia soon will establish liberated areas - after that they will get help, maybe from the cubans or from chinese soldiers. The Sovietunion is establishing itself in the southern Africa, the ~~Chinese~~ Chinese cannot just sit and look at it, he feels.

The Africans in South Africa are becoming more political aware and this will result in more strikes and more demonstrations, according to Sobukwe. He thinks that the 18 million have an impressive weapon in the working power. The whites are totally dependent on the black workers. And an increasing number of black understand this power, young black greet each other in the street by lifting their fists (the Black Power sign). The young are getting increasingly impatient and demand changes. They want part of the wealth and political influence.

Sobukwe is today isolated by the Vorster regime. The ban can be reimposed every five years indefinitely. Vorster knows that the lawyer in Kimberley is an important black leader with many followers. When he was released from Robben Island ~~Vorster~~ the Vorster government ^{gave} ~~gave~~ him a one way exit visa, but kept him in Kimberley by not allowing him to travel to Johannesburg to take the ^{plane} ~~plane~~ from there. He has been invited to Europe and America by universities to give lectures, but he cannot leave Kimberley to reach his plane, and if he did ^{illegally} ~~he~~ would not be let in again

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