

SOBUKWE'S WIFE TO SEE MINISTER

From Our Political Correspondent

Cape Town, Wednesday.

MRS. VERONICA SOBUKWE, wife of Robert Sobukwe, the former secretary of the P.A.C., now detained on Robben Island, is to see the Minister of Justice, Mr. Pelsler.

The Minister confirmed today that he had agreed to discuss the detention with Mrs. Sobukwe. No date has yet been fixed for the meeting.

The measure authorizing the detention is only effective for a year at a time, and will have to come up for discussion in Parliament before the end of the present session. The period expires on June 30 each year.

Mrs. Sobukwe wrote to the Prime Minister, Mr. Vorster, appealing for the release of her husband and asking for a personal interview. The Prime Minister handed on the letter to the Minister of Justice.

This is the fourth year of Robert Sobukwe's detention. Previously he served a three-year prison sentence on a conviction of incitement flowing from the anti-pass demonstrations which culminated in the disturbances at Sharpeville in 1960.

Immediately after his release from jail he was placed in detention in a bungalow on the island with an enclosed yard. Mrs. Sobukwe, who is a qualified nursing sister in Soweto, says her husband's health is deteriorating.

He applied two years ago for permission to leave South Africa permanently, but the application was turned down.

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