

Inside Mail

ROBERT SOBUKWE was jailed in 1960 for three years for sedition following the anti-apartheid campaign launched by his organisation, the Pan Africanist Congress. When his sentence expired he was taken to Robben Island Prison in letters of commendation (a significant honour through Parliament). He was kept there for the next six years, without trial, as he had been released. He was taken to Kimberley, a strategic place to him. He was placed under eight-time house arrest and allowed - which meant knowing where things, that he could not leave Kimberley without permission.

During June and July last year, Mr Sobukwe was visiting a tin. The doctors he consulted in Kimberley could not do anything to help him. He thought he had to see a specialist in Cape Town. He was given a special ticket for the journey. He kept saying him to apply for permission to visit a specialist. When he finally did so, late in July, permission was refused.

It immediately went to Kimberley for two days, and was refused about his condition then as soon as I returned home. I phoned the Minister of Justice, Mr Kruger, at his office. He took several days to get back to Mr Kruger. Then I finally received him. He was helpful. Within the week he had come back to see me. I think we could contact a specialist in Cape Town. But that was not what I was looking for. I was looking for a doctor who could do something to help me. I was looking for a doctor who could do something to help me.

It was agreed that Mr Sobukwe would arrive at a hospital and stay overnight in the town. But he would not go anywhere else. He had to see the specialist at that time. He had to see the specialist at that time. He had to see the specialist at that time. He had to see the specialist at that time. He had to see the specialist at that time.

There is also a possibility that, if the patient is later diagnosed, first steps will be a consultation arranged by Mr

Sobukwe some days later, that the specialist, together with his wife, I went back to Mr Kruger, explaining that my doctor would be spending most of his money for the examination. A flurry of phone calls, and the afternoon before Mr Sobukwe was taken to Johannesburg. The Security Police promised me to say all right, he would go to the doctor's rooms after all. But I thought from the comm to my home.

At that stage I had no intention to see for permission for Mr Sobukwe to leave Johannesburg. It would have been going to see another doctor. I was told that it was not possible to get another doctor. The permission for him to move to Johannesburg might be held by the Security Police.

This was a very difficult situation. It was the situation in which I was operating. I was begging for help, and I was not getting it. I was begging for help, and I was not getting it. I was begging for help, and I was not getting it.

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The last months of a sick man

A doctor who treated Robert Sobukwe says that the cancer from which he died on February 27 of the age of 53 was incurable; that, once found, it was too late to do anything about it.

That could be, but against it is the fact that, as a result of the banings imposed on him since 1969, Mr Sobukwe could not at first freely seek medical advice. It was several months before his illness was properly diagnosed. By then it was certainly too late to save his life.

This the record of what happened, as told by BENJAMIN POGRUND who, as a close friend of nearly 20 years' standing, was personally involved in many of the events of the last months of Mr Sobukwe's life.



Robert Sobukwe... a photograph taken in Johannesburg last August, just before his fatal illness was diagnosed. Mr Sobukwe was at the time of Benjamin Pogrund, who is seen here with first

and an elderly physician. I was told that Mr Sobukwe had been operated on for cancer in his stomach. The doctor who operated on him was Dr. Kruger. He was told that Mr Sobukwe had been operated on for cancer in his stomach. The doctor who operated on him was Dr. Kruger. He was told that Mr Sobukwe had been operated on for cancer in his stomach.

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had been referred to a hospital. The doctor was not available. On October 11, Mrs Sobukwe was told that X-ray results showed that the cancer was in an advanced stage. She was told that the doctor was not available. She was told that the doctor was not available.

At midnight on Friday, October 11, the Bishop of Cape Town, Mr. Sobukwe was taken to the hospital. He was taken to the hospital. He was taken to the hospital. He was taken to the hospital.

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the first order was that Mr Sobukwe was not allowed to leave the hospital grounds. Then on at the doctors, treating him received permission for him to go to a private hospital. The doctor was given permission to take him to the hospital. The doctor was given permission to take him to the hospital.

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PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand

Location:- Johannesburg

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DOCUMENT DETAILS:

Document ID:- A2618-Cp2-13-33

Document Title:- Rand Daily Mail: The last months of a sick man

Author:- Rand Daily Mail

Document Date:- 14 March 1978