

SOBUKWE

EXIT

PERMIT

APPROVED

R.D.M. 13-3-71

By PAT SCHWARTZ

AN APPLICATION by Mr. Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe, former president of the banned Pan-Africanist Congress, to leave South Africa permanently on a one-way exit permit, has been approved.

Mr. Sobukwe applied for the permit so as to go to the United States with his family to assume a university position.

The permit has been approved by the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Gerdener.

But the Minister of Justice, Mr. Peiser, has previously refused to relax Mr. Sobukwe's banning orders, confining him to Kimberley — and lawyers now considering what to do to enable Mr. Sobukwe to travel to Jan Smuts Airport to take up his exit permit.

REFUSED

Mr. Sobukwe was released from Robben Island in May, 1969, after six years detention without trial. He had earlier served a three-year sentence for incitement arising out of the 1960 anti-pass campaign.

Immediately after his release he was placed under house arrest, banned from meetings and social gatherings and confined to Kimberley.

Mr. Sobukwe first applied for an exit permit after his application for a passport was refused in May last year.

In June, the Secretary for the Interior told him he needed the permission of the Minister of Justice to leave Kimberley and had to furnish proof that he would be permitted to enter the United States before his application would be considered.

DEGREES

The Minister of Justice refused the permission. Mr. Sobukwe's lawyers then made representations to the Minister of the Interior.

Mr. Sobukwe who has three university degrees, has been given a research and lecturing fellowship in African linguistics at Wisconsin University and two part-time lecturing posts at Roosevelt University and the Adlai Stevenson Institute in Chicago.

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