

# RUMPFF GIVES THE LIE TO SWART

## Was Never Consulted About Treason Court Judges

PRETORIA.

**THE** successful defence application for the recusal of Mr. Justice Ludorf led to the adjournment of the Treason Trial for one week until this coming Monday, August 11, and raised some doubts as to whether the Special Court would have to be reconstituted and the whole bench appointed afresh.

Mr. Pirow Q.C., chief Crown prosecutor, said he was confident "everything can be fixed in a week." The defence did not concede that the Special Court was still properly constituted, nor did it oppose the Crown's application for the postponement. The defence was anxious only for the least possible delay, said Mr. Maisels, Q.C., chief defence counsel.

### Tight Spot

Meanwhile, Mr. Justice Rumpff's explanation in court on Monday for not recusing himself puts the Minister of Justice, Mr. Swart, in a tight spot and places a heavy onus on him to give Parliament and the country an explanation of his position.

Speaking in Parliament during the second reading of the Special Courts Amendment Bill, Mr. Swart said:

"When I had to appoint the court, I consulted the Judge-President as to what he intended doing, and he informed me that he would have appointed Judge Rumpff to hear the case. I then appointed Judge Rumpff as the senior judge of the court and I consulted Judge Rumpff on the further appointments." (Hansard for July 14, col. 320.)

In court on Monday, Mr. Justice Rumpff said that when the Mini-

ster told him he had decided to appoint a special court of three judges and the other two would be

(Continued on page 3)



Vol. 4, No. 42. Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper

NORTHERN EDITION

Thursday, August, 7, 1958

6d.

**Basutoland Congress Says: "We Shall Give Report a Fair Trial"**  
see page 4



"HERE THEY COME!" The two buses provided for the accused have drawn up outside the Old Synagogue converted into a courthouse, and the accused walk into court. (Mr. J. Slovo, Dr. G. M. Naicker, Mr. T. Tshume and Mr. T. Mqota.)

## Crown Hires Publicity Agent for Treason Trial

# "AN OUTRAGE," SAY LAWYERS

JOHANNESBURG.

**LAWYERS** are shocked at the revelation that the Crown has employed a publicity agent part of whose job will apparently be to give the press official handouts on the treason trial.

As one lawyer put it: "It is an outrageous proposition that the Crown should have to hire someone to report a case to the public."

Mr. Pirow's press attache is Mrs.

Mapula Rood, formerly a social reporter on one of the English dailies and now wife of a former Nationalist M.P., who farms in the same area as Mr. Pirow.

Mrs. Rood's duty is to write reports of the proceedings of the Treason Trial. Her reports will be vetted by the Special Branch.

On the opening day of the trial, in the presence of some of the accused, she thanked a press photographer for having taken "such a darling picture of Mr. Pirow and Mr. de Vos" which appeared in one of the newspapers. "Do give me a copy for Pirow, as a special favour," she simpered.

To one Sunday newspaper Mrs. Rood described the Crown's new expert Father Joseph Bochenski as "a darling and a dear."

If the press attaches publicity about night and day Special Branch guards around Father Bochenski is her master stroke up to now, it has achieved nothing more than a comic opera effect. The purpose of this Crown publicity might be to suggest that Father Bochenski is in danger. How absurd!

The public that is paying for this trial might well ask: who hired Mrs. Rood and who pays her?

And why the need for special handouts, vetted by the Special Branch, to embassies and consulates and news agencies? Why is the prosecution afraid to rely on the normal press coverage of the

proceedings? Is there a special slant that the prosecution needs to put over?

## Accused have World-Wide Support

JOHANNESBURG.

As the accused filed into the dock at the treason trial a huge pile of telegrams from well wishers arrived and were handed round to them.

They came from the Council of Negro Women of the United States, Canon Collins, the London New Age Committee, Mrs. Mary Louise Hooper, a number of American organisations and trade unions, Congress branches and individuals throughout the Union.

A wire from Cheddi Jagan, Prime Minister of British Guiana, read: "Warmest good wishes Guianese people fully supporting you against tyranny and injustice."



Prof. Z. K. Matthews received a pile of telegrams of support for the accused from a post office messenger just before the trial opened.

## Henry Makgothi a Free Man

PRETORIA.

When the treason trial proceedings opened, Henry G. Makgothi was not among the accused: a medical certificate received by the Crown said that he would require hospitalisation for at least six months. The Crown then announced that it had been decided to withdraw the indictment against him.

This leaves 91 accused standing trial.

**Collection Number: AG2887**

**Collection Name: Publications, New Age, 1954-1962**

***PUBLISHER:***

*Publisher:* Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

*Location:* Johannesburg

©2016

***LEGAL NOTICES:***

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is held at the Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.