

EXTRACT : Nelson ^{Mandela} Memorir written in Prison (1976)
(Nelson Mandela Foundation website)

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illegal organisation. Chief Luthuli, the leader of the ANC, was confined to Stanger at the time and knew nothing whatsoever about the document. Neither the SAIC, CPC, COD not SACTU had discussed it. Oliver Tambo, the deputy president, and the entire external mission who would be entrusted with all the tasks of explaining the document to the countries that supported us, had not commented on it.

From the preceeding chapters it will be noted that ever since the Chief had been restricted to Stanger all meetings of the National Executive Committee of the ANC as well as the Joint Executives were held there so that the head of the organisation is afforded the opportunity of expressing his views on policy matters. "Operation Mayibuye" was one of these important matters of policy which could never become a decision of the ANC without proper consultation with the leadership of the organisation and its allies. Accordingly we decided to contest the State allegation that the document was a blueprint of our plans and Walter Sisulu and all the other accused were now to put forward this line.

→ The second issue that attracted a lot of publicity in Walter's evidence under cross examination related to Bob Hepple, against whom the charge had been withdrawn and who the State claimed was to have been one of its witnesses. ||

We were aware that during his detention Bob, after consultation with two of the accused had made a statement to the police which was considered to be innocous, the idea being that he would be |

discharged and able to flee the country (check).

In his evidence Walter had explained our policy on the question of traitors and had told the court that their fate would not be decided arbitrarily but that they would be given a fair trial and the opportunity to defend themselves. The prosecution then disclosed that on the 5th September 1963 Bob had led the police to the cottage in Mountain View which had been used as a hiding place by Ahmed Kathrada as well as by Goldreich and Wolpe after their escape from the police cells. Yutar then pressed Walter to answer whether he regarded Bob as a traitor. Walter stated that under those conditions he would regard Bob as a traitor. The press incorrectly reported him as having made an unqualified statement that Bob had betrayed us.

The statement by Yutar that Bob had exposed Mountain View was received by us with reservations as the prosecution would readily make such an allegation as a retaliatory act against a man who had outwitted them. After the press publicity relating to this we received a strong protest from Bob reminding us that the whole idea of his making a statement and leaving the country had been fully discussed and he strenuously refuted the allegation made by Yutar. We accepted his assurance and as far as we are concerned the matter is closed.

It was also rumoured that Thami Tshume (spelling?), former member of the ANC National Executive and Treason Trialist, would give evidence for the State but although we were told he had been brought up to Pretoria from Port Elizabeth he was never called. He subsequently gave

Collection Number: A3393

Collection Name: Bob Hepple Papers

PUBLISHER:

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

Location: **Johannesburg**

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