

NOT IN

R.D.M. 13-6-67

PUBLIC'S

~~DAILY~~

INTEREST'

TO FREE

SOBUKWE

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.—The Minister of Justice, Mr. Pelsler, said yesterday he was convinced that at this stage it was not in the public interest that Mr. Robert Sobukwe, a former leader of the Pan-Africanist Congress, who was being detained in terms of the Suppression of Communism Act, should be released.

"I wish to mention here, however, that I have decided to relax the conditions in terms of which he is being detained so that it will be possible for his wife and children to live with him twice a year for continuous periods of 14 days at a time at the place where he is being detained.

"This concession is over and above the visits which they can at present pay him."

INEVITABLE

The Minister was moving the second reading of the General Law Amendment Bill which, among other matters, provides for the extension of the section in the Suppression of Communism Act in terms of which a prisoner could be further detained after he had served a sentence.

"In this connection I wish to say that I have carefully considered the whole matter, including all representations which I have received about it, and that I have also granted his wife an interview.

"I trust that he and his family will appreciate this extraordinary concession. We are not insensitive or indifferent to the detention of the man and try, as far as possible, to alleviate the inevitable. Further than I have gone now, I cannot go at this stage."

MR. T. G. HUGHES (U.P., Transkei) said the United Party would accept the second reading of the Bill but in the committee stage would oppose the clause under which Mr. Sobukwe could be further detained.

The United Party's objection to the clause was that although

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