TOP-LEVEL

9 Aug 1958

Dr. W. W. M. Eiselen, has written a letter to the Sophiatown branch of the African National Congress, answering complaints by the branch.

This is believed to be one of the first times that a senior Government official like Dr. Eiselen has written so detailed a letter to a branch of the A.N.C.

As a result of the letter, the Sophiatown A.N.C. is issuing a challenge to Dr. Eiselen and the Government to hold a commission of inquiry into conditions in the township.

It started with a circular letter by the branch to the Government M.P.s and the Johannesburg City Council complaining of "persecution by the police and the Resettlement Board" in Sophiatown, protesting against passes, and offering to provide proof of the allegations.

Dr. Eiselen, who begins and ends his letter "Greetings," refutes charges of oppression over the resettlement scheme and also deals with the passes-for-women question.

Robert Sobukwe Papers

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