

# SOBUKWE NOT SURPRISED AT EXTRA DETENTION

R.D.m

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CAPE TOWN.—Robert Sobukwe, once leader of the Pan-Africanist Congress, who is being detained on Robben Island after having served three years' imprisonment for incitement, told newspapermen and two members of Parliament who visited him yesterday morning that he intended spending his time studying.

Asked whether he had any general observations to make, Sobukwe said: "Well, I don't know exactly what this law provides. I have only heard about it. I wish I could get a copy to study. I am not surprised this action has been taken.

"Pardon me if I get mixed up again and again. My thoughts have not been ironed out. I have been out of touch. For myself, I would not mind what type of action they take against me. I am speaking honestly, even if they keep me here for life."

Sobukwe said there was little he could say at this stage about how he would find life on the island. He had been released from prison but "this new life for me" was really only beginning.

It was his intention to study for the B.Econ. degree — a three-year course. He would study by correspondence. He said he already held a B.A. degree with honours.

Asked about his living quarters on the island, he said it was a big improvement on prison accommodation.

The two Members of Parliament in the party were the United Party Member for Durban North, Mr. M. L. Mitchell, and Mr. J. J. Fouche, the National Party Member for Smithfield.

## CONDITIONS

Asked for his comments on the conditions under which Sobukwe was being detained and the living quarters provided for him, Mr. Mitchell said: "Accepting that that is the law, I think it is perfectly reasonable."

When the interview reached the stage where it appeared that reporters had no more questions to ask, Sobukwe turned to them smilingly and said: "Well, gentlemen, are you drowsy?"

Sobukwe wore grey flannel trousers and a sports jacket.

Brigadier F. J. Coetzee, of the Prisons Department, who accompanied the party, told reporters that Sobukwe would wear his own civilian clothes. During his detention Sobukwe would be paid an allowance to cover the cost of personal requirements, apart from food, which would be provided. The amount would probably be 10c a day.

Asked about his financial circumstances, Sobukwe said his wife was working. He added: "I do not think that it will be necessary for me to ask for financial assistance."—SAPA.