

# SOBUKWE

Only way I  
can prevent  
his <sup>RAND DAILY MAIL</sup> escape

FRIDAY 25

— VORSTER

EAST AFRICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

**ROBERT SOBUKWE**, former leader of the banned Pan Africanist Congress, is to remain in detention on Robben Island for a further year. Parliament yesterday agreed—by 86 votes to 46—to the extension of the provision under which he is held.

The Minister of Justice, Mr. Vorster, told the House of Assembly that this was the only way in which he could make sure that Sobukwe would not escape and continue his subversive activities.

Mr. Vorster said he was not prepared to take a chance and release Sobukwe from Robben Island, and rejected all Opposition objections to his intentions. Sobukwe was due to be released on June 10.

Provision for the extension of Sobukwe's detention was made during the committee stage of the Suppression of Communism Amendment Bill.

Both the Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill and the Suppression of Communism Amendment Bill went through the committee stage yesterday.

These two contentious Bills, introduced at the end of the session by Mr. Vorster, had caused the Opposition to threaten to fight every conceivable provision in them and keep the Assembly sitting long after June 18, the day the session is due to end.

Mr. Vorster yielded slightly under this pressure and pressure from his own party to cut down on the time the Bills would take. He stripped some of the contentious clauses and agreed to the alteration of some others.

## Retained

But he retained the "denial of witnesses" clause and, in spite of a concerted attack on it yesterday, agreed only to amend it to make it applicable to a specified number of offences.

Mr. T. G. Hughes (I.P., Transkeian Territories) said the Opposition objected strongly to the Sobukwe provision, especially as it was intended for one man only. The Minister did not require such a drastic measure for one man.

The Minister: If I did not have this power, I could not keep him in prison.

Mr. Hughes: But you could banish him.

The Minister: I have considered that, but how long do you think he will stay there?

Mrs. H. Sumner (P.P., Houghton) said the detention of anybody, whether Sobukwe or any other person, after serving his sentence was wrong.

The best the Minister could do would be to detain Sobukwe in a prison where his wife could visit him more easily.

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