SOBUKWE CLAUSE AGAIN

From Our Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN, Friday. — A provision empowering the Government to continue to hold Robert Sobukwe, a former leader of the banned P.A.C., on Robben Island for a further year was introduced by the Minister of Justice, Mr. Pelser, in the Assembly today.

The clause authorizing his continued detention has to be renewed every year before the end of the year.

Amendment Bill introduced by the Minister towards the end of each session. This is an omnibus measure containing amendments to a variety of laws which have not been included in other Bills.

Though the relevant clause contains no specific reference to him, it has come to be known as the "Sobukwe" clause as he is the only person to whom it has so far been applied.

It entitled the Government to detail without trial on the expiry of a prison sentence any person whose release the Government believes would jeopardize the public safety.

Sobukwe was sentenced to three years' imprisonment after being convicted of incitement to violence for his part as general secretary of the P.A.C. in the passes defiance campaign which resulted in the troubles at Sharpeville.

When his term of imprisonment ended, he was transferred to a bungalow with a surrounding courtyard near the seashore on Robben Island. Robert Sobukwe Papers

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