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CAPE TIMES, THU

World's Eyes Will Be on Treason Trial in Pretoria To-morrow

THE eyes of the world will be on the Old Synagogue in Paul Kruger Street, Pretoria, to-morrow, when 92 men and women of all races will be charged with high treason at the opening of the most significant mass trial in South African history.

The accused, who will be charged alternatively under the Suppression of Communism Act, will be tried by three judges presiding over a special court legalized by an Act which was rushed through Parliament earlier this month, signed by the Governor-General on July 22 and promulgated in the *Government Gazette* last Friday.

The judges are: Mr. Justice F. Rumpff, Mr. Justice J. F. Ludorf and Mr. Justice A. A. Kennedy. Seventeen advocates have been briefed, among them Mr. Oswald Pirow, QC, who will lead the case for the Crown, and Mr. I. A. Maisels QC, chief counsel for the defence.

OVERSEA OBSERVERS

If the accused are found guilty on the main charge the punishment could be death.

Three eminent overseas lawyers will hold a watching brief on the trial. They are: Prof. Erwin N. Griswold, head of the Law School at Harvard University; Mr. Eduard Hambro, former Registrar of the International Court of Justice, who has been sent as an observer by the International Commission of Jurists; and Mr. F. H. Lawton, QC, who will watch the proceedings for the British section on the International Commission.

The indictment is a massive document of three separate volumes. It runs into 100,000 words and is thicker than a telephone directory.

The charge, believed to be the longest in legal history in the Union, is set out in the first volume, the particulars of the charge in the second, and the particulars of the particulars in the third. The document weighs more than 4 lb.

CHANGE IN LAW

prisoners were released on bail totalling £13,650, and the court assembled again on January 9, 1957, with 500 policemen surrounding the building.

The hearings which followed lasted nine months and ran into 3,000,000 words of evidence and cross-examination.

12,000 DOCUMENTS

Twelve thousand documents, accumulated by the police after 2½ years of searches, were handed into court: pamphlets, speeches, tracts, books, banners and flags.

Among them were the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, a complaint that the South African Olympic team had no Africans, a book called "Russian Recipes", and extracts of speeches made by the suspects.

On September 11 the prosecutor announced that he had completed the case for the Crown. The defence was granted a four-month adjournment to sift through 8,000 typed pages of evidence and 10,000 documents.

During the adjournment, the Attorney - General announced that 61 of the accused would be discharged as there was no case for them to meet. Among them were the president of the African National Congress, Chief Albert Luthuli, and the secretary, Oliver Tambo.

George Peake; Alex la Guma; and David Ngungenyeko.

Appearing with Mr. Pirow for the Crown are Mr. J. de Vos, QC, Mr. J. Trengrove, Mr. G. G. Hoexter, Mr. M. O. Barker, Mr. J. C. van Niekerk, Mr. J. H. Liebenberg and Mr C. van der Walt.

With Mr. I. A. Maisels in the defence team will be Mr. A. Fisher, QC, Mr. H. C. Nicholas, Mr. S. Kentridge, Mr. V. C. Berrange, Mr. J. Coaker, Mr. A. P. O'Dowd, Mr. C. Plewman and Mr. D. J. B. Osborn.

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