

REPORT ON S.A. JAILS CHALLENGED

Geneva.

AN INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS report on the treatment of prisoners in South African jails has been criticized by Mr. Waldron Ramsey, Tanzanian member of a five-man group of experts appointed by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

He questioned the accuracy of the Red Cross findings. There were several points the experts wanted to query in the latest published Red Cross report, but Red Cross officials had refused to co-operate, Mr. Ramsey told a meeting of the experts yesterday.

"We were told the Red Cross could not comment on its findings," Mr. Ramsey said.

A Red Cross spokesman told reporters it was up to the South African Government to answer all queries on their report, and publish it if they wanted to. "We report, and that is all," the Red Cross spokesman said.

PRETORIA KNEW

Mr. Ramsey said the Red Cross findings did not conform with reports heard by the Human Rights experts on South African jail conditions. One of the reasons for the contradictions, Mr. Ramsey said, was that the Red Cross visited only prisons selected by the South African Government.

Several witnesses heard by the United Nations experts had testified that before such visits prisoners were given fresh clothes and cells were cleaned out, but this "lapsed" the minute the Red Cross official left.

REQUEST

A Red Cross spokesman declined to comment on the allegation but admitted the South African Government must have known which jails the Red Cross official would visit.

"After all we made the request in the first place."

A Human Rights Commission statement last week said that experts had been unable to conduct any part of their investigations on South African territory, following objections by the South African Government.

The South African permanent representative at the United Nations said this would have been "flagrant interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state member of the United Nations."

The commission added that the experts had heard 25 witnesses in New York, London and Dar es Salaam—many of them former prisoners—who allege torture and ill-treatment in South African jails.

The experts' report is expected on Friday.—Sapa-Reuter.

S.A. prison report out today

Own Correspondent

LONDON.—The International Defence and Aid Fund's report on South African prison conditions will be released at a Press conference in London tomorrow.

The report, which contains the testimony of former political prisoners in South Africa, is intended as a reply to the report compiled by the International Red Cross after its investigation of South African prisons.

Ten former political prisoners will be at the conference to answer Press questions.

U.N. SEMINAR

Immediately after the conference, Mr. Dennis Brutus, director of Defence and Aid, will fly to Lusaka to read a paper before the United Nations international seminar on apartheid, racial discrimination and colonialism in Southern Africa, which will be held from Monday to August 4.

Mr. Brutus's paper will be based on the prisons report.

Canon Collins, chairman of Defence and Aid, will also address the seminar.