

Fresh obstacles block early release

THE RELEASE of Nelson Mandela, the 71-year-old black nationalist leader, after 27 years in jail has run into difficulties, said his wife yesterday after visiting him.

As she left the Victor Verster prison, 40 miles north-east of Cape Town, Mrs Winnie Mandela said: "I did not find him as happy as he was the last time. It is quite clear there are a lot of hurdles along the way."

Her husband is at the centre of a storm of controversy after reasserting that he favours the nationalisation of mines, banks and "monopoly industry". His statement on Thursday unleashed a torrent of criticism from white businessmen.

Mr Tony Norton, president of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, said Mr Mandela's comments seemed to be out of step with moderate views

expressed by exiled African National Congress leaders.

"The statement is outmoded rhetoric," Mr Norton said. "It seems to be a political move rather than serious economic policy."

The dispute over Mr Mandela's stand came as a result of a *Sunday Telegraph* article, prominently reproduced in South Africa, which quoted Mr Richard Maponya, a black businessman, as saying Mr Mandela no longer favoured state control of industry and business as an instrument of black liberation.

Mr Maponya, an old friend of Mr Mandela who recently visited him in his prison bungalow, told *The Sunday Telegraph*: "He said he did not believe in nationalisation because such a policy ran counter to the need to keep the South African economy

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growing to provide jobs and so that we can generate resources for training our young people."

On Thursday, a handwritten statement from Mr Mandela was released through Mr "Terror" Lekota, publicity secretary of the ANC front organisation, the United Democratic Front, in which Mr Mandela said he was still committed to the 1955 Freedom Charter calling for the nationalisation.

But Mr Maponya is standing by his version of Mr Mandela's views, according to sources close to the millionaire businessman.

Mr Harry Schwarz, an opposition

Democratic Party MP who met Mr Mandela recently, said he was sure the ANC leader's views would change once constitutional talks began.

There is speculation that Mr Mandela may have reasserted a belief in state control to neutralise growing trouble with young radicals.

Their slogans, such as "Freedom or death", "Victory is certain" and "Long live the spirit of no compromise", were good for whipping up a revolutionary atmosphere in townships and getting the "masses" on to the streets for anti-government demonstrations.

But they have become a burden as the time approaches to begin sophisticated negotiations.

Mr Walter Sisulu, former ANC secretary general who was released from prison last October after serving 25 years, said: "The problem is that many youngsters are not really interested in negotiations. They have become a little angry."

"That is why I say that this chapter Klerk [South Africa's President] is moving too fast and can create problems for us. We want to educate our people. We want time to discuss this matter with them."

● Michael Calvin in Kimberley writes: Riot police fired rubber bullets at protesters at the opening match of Mike Gatting's unofficial cricket tour of South Africa yesterday.

Demonstrators responded angrily to a bottle thrown by a spectator who was ejected from the ground.

Rocks were thrown and, in the ensuing incident, a youth was injured. Dr Ali Bacher, managing director of the South African Cricket Union, called for spectators and demonstrators to show restraint.

In another illustration of the uneasy mood, the entire staff of a Greek restaurant walked out when the owner invited Gatting to dinner on Friday night. The cricketer responded by cooking and serving meals for the other diners.

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Black Africa's phoney war P13

Cricket P40