

# Transkei

## churches

### help

### stranded

### Saturday families

#### Own Correspondent

UMTATA. — This city yesterday became the dumping ground for South Africa's Transkei rejects.

And the Prime Minister, Chief George Matanzima, delivered a stinging rebuke to the South African Government.

While government officials consulted, the Transkei Council of Churches took the initiative early yesterday morning and shepherded the displaced people from Cape Town to church halls in the city.

Parishioners of the Catholic and Anglican communities rallied round to provide food and warmth for more than seven hundred men, women and children who arrived here by train from the border at Kei River.

#### Church halls

About 400 of the homeless were being accommodated at the Catholic church hall and more than 300 were at the Anglican church hall.

By late yesterday afternoon, officials of the Department of the Interior had made arrangements to bus most of the people to districts where they had either families or friends who could provide a haven for them over the weekend.

All of them were told to report to the local district commissioners on Monday morning for further assistance.

#### Tired

Both church halls became nothing more than refugee centres yesterday morning. Bewildered, tired, ill-clad people sat around waiting for officialdom to make the next move with their lives. Babes-in-arms and toddlers, many of them with diarrhoea, kept their mothers fully occupied.

The chairman of the council of churches, the Rev R S Ngcobo, said many of the people had told him they had been told to go to the Western Cape Administration offices because they would be offered work.

"But it was only a ploy to get them there so they could be loaded on to buses," he said.

None of the people interviewed knew anything about jobs being offered elsewhere in South Africa.

#### Matanzima

The Secretary of the Interior, Mr M Titus, said his department had arranged for the squatters to be taken to areas where relatives or friends could help them until Monday, when they had been asked to report to the local district commissioners.

Chief George Matanzima, who is confined to bed on doctors orders, issued the following statement: "It has been with the greatest shock and dismay that I have received the news that these people had been bundled into buses and sent to Transkei without the authorities concerned even making sure they were all Transkeian citizens.

#### 'Dumping ground'

"To me this forced removal of people, some of whom have never been Transkeian citizens, is nothing other than evidence that South Africa has no regard for the black man, and more than anything, it shows that the South African Government does not recognize Transkei as an independent state.

"When the Status of Transkei Act was passed, Transkei made it abundantly clear that it would not allow the Republic of South Africa to use it as a dumping ground for the people that South Africa did not want."

A few of the people interviewed have stated categorically that they are not Transkeian citizens, have never been Transkeian citizens and do not wish to be Transkeian citizens.