

LMN/003/0006/25

Allegations^{16/02/68}
of

~~Torture~~

ill-treatment
of prisoners

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Douglas - Home
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- ③ George Peake
accusations.
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Douglas-Home
on Pol Prisoners

Times
Report promised
16 FEB 1958
on prisoners *For. Relations*

Sir Alec Douglas-Home yesterday sent a message to London that he would report to Mr. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary, on the plight of political prisoners in South Africa if it was "appropriate". The message was in reply to a telegram sent to him on Monday by the Anti-Apartheid Movement and signed by 60 M.P.s and by Mr. Humphry Berkeley, the chairman of the United Nations Association.

Torture
V. Weinberg.

Violet Weinberg

AA News 67-p. 8.

investigating Attorney Gen
interrogation of
Violet Weinberg at her trial
(Trial No 8A/66 in ^{our} Ring file)

V alleges int. for 3 days
and 3 nights by 6
interrogators

George Peake

S African prison ^{Times} accusations

8 MAR 1968
FROM OUR AFRICAN CORRESPONDENT

Allegations of brutality in South Africa's Robben Island prison were made in London yesterday by Mr. George Peake, a former Cape Town city councillor, who served a three-year sentence there from 1962 to 1965. Mr. Peake, who arrived in Britain on Monday after being given an exit permit by the South African Government, had been convicted of planting a home-made bomb outside a prison and of opposing the Group Areas Act.

He said that while on Robben Island he had seen one man killed by a warder and many others savagely beaten. "I have never seen anything so brutal", he said, describing the treatment of strikers at the prison in 1964. "It was like Buchenwald."

At the time of his imprisonment, Robben Island held 1,300 political prisoners, forced to do hard labour. The authorities, he added, had faked evidence of the conditions there for press and Red Cross observers.

Mr. Peake, who is a member of the Pan Africanist Congress, said he had left a wife and four daughters behind in South Africa, where he had been under house arrest since his release. He feared there might be reprisals against them but "this is one of the sacrifices we have to make".

Dingake ← Torture

Amnesty acts after S. African torture report

26 MAR 1968 GUARDIAN
By our own Reporter

Amnesty International and the World Campaign for the Release of South African Political Prisoners are asking the International Red Cross to intervene in South Africa after disturbing reports of a torture case reached London yesterday. They concern Mr Michael Dingake, a citizen of Botswana, who was kidnapped by the Rhodesian police in December, 1965, and sent to Pretoria, where he was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment for contravening the Suppression of Communism Act.

Reliable information has reached London that Mr Dingake was beaten up during interrogations between March 5 and 15. He is now said to be in a critical condition.

Amnesty International is writing to the South African Ambassador for a medical report on Mr Dingake. It is also asking the International Red Cross delegate in Southern Africa to visit him and the Botswana Government to exercise its right to consular access.

See Trial in Big Pol. Trials
Book File.

U.N.

U.N. wants S.A. to visit S.A. prisons

NEW YORK.
A UNITED NATIONS committee decided yesterday to ask the Government of South Africa if its members would be allowed to visit the Republic to investigate prison conditions and contact trade union organizations.

The six-member committee also requested the Secretary-General, U Thant, to make contact with the Portuguese Government about a possible visit to its African territories.

South Africa has previously criticized the work of the committee, which was originally set up to look into prison and trade union conditions in South Africa. Its mandate was widened recently by the Economic and Social Council to take in the Portuguese territories, Rhodesia, and South West Africa.

Thursday's meeting, the first of the committee's resumed session, was mainly organizational. The committee decided to begin hearing witnesses in New York next Wednesday. — Sapa-Reuter.