

# Hardship Expected When Cape Times 18-6-58 Treason Trial Shifts Its Venue

THE *Cape Times* was informed yesterday that the trial at which 95 people accused of treason will appear is to open in Pretoria on August 4 in the old synagogue hall, which was used for the sittings of the High Court of Parliament. The preparatory examination held in Johannesburg took one year and 33 days, and the trial itself is likely to extend over many months.

Although the Drill Hall there was renovated during the preparatory examination, apparently to prepare it for the trial, it is understood that the venue of the trial will be in Pretoria. An appeal has been made by counsel for the defence that the trial should be held in Johannesburg, as about 90 per cent. of the accused live in Johannesburg.

The Crown case will be led by Mr. Oswald Pirow, Q.C., and the defence by Mr. A. I. Maisels, Q.C., Mr. Bram Fisher, Q.C., Mr. V. C. Berrange, who led the defence at the preparatory examination, and five juniors.

The indictment, which sets out the details of each accused person's alleged crime and shows how each is alleged to be linked with the other, runs to more than 450 pages of foolscap. It has not yet been handed to the defence, but it is understood that the defence counsel have been given verbal indications of the line which will be taken.

Originally 156 people were accused in the case. All of them were arrested in December, 1956, but at the close of the preparatory examination allegations against 61 of them were dropped.

## SIX CAPETONIANS

Six of the remaining accused people live in Cape Town.

"As far as possible, expenses are met out of the Treason Trial Fund; but it looks as if the expenses will far exceed what is needed", Mr. Lionel Forman, a city advocate and one of the accused men in the trial, said yesterday.

"In the first place, this change of venue from Johannesburg to Pretoria—for which one can see no obvious reason, unless it is to embarrass the accused—will cost the defence a minimum of £500 a month for transport alone", added Mr. Forman.

"We asked for a quotation from the South African Railways to take defendants from Johannesburg to Pretoria each day. They demanded more than £500. Then Putco offered to supply a bus at £500 a month. It looks as if we will have to accept their offer.

"That, of course, is without including any costs of the actual defence", he said. "Where we wish to call expert witnesses we have to pay their transport and living expenses."

A spokesman of the Fund in Cape Town said yesterday that it was against the policy of the Fund to disclose figures of its income and expenditure so far. "I can say, however, that at the moment it seems that another £60,000 is needed, most of which will have to be raised in South Africa", he said.

## 4 A.M. DEPARTURE

Defence counsel and the Cape Town accused people expect the trial to last for "nearly a year if not a year".

The change of venue from Johannesburg to Pretoria meant that many of the accused people, whose homes were in Johannesburg locations, would have to leave their homes about 4 a.m. each day, Mr. Forman said yesterday.

"They could move to Pretoria with their families, but the Lady Selborne location is already overcrowded and it is unlikely that they could find homes there.

"In the same way many of

those appearing at the preparatory examination were able to obtain work at night from sympathizers to earn a living. This will not happen in Pretoria, and those living in Johannesburg will return to their homes too late to obtain such employment."

## HARDSHIPS GENUINE

"The hardships of these people are very genuine and the majority are more concerned about the support of their families than with the charge of treason which hangs over their heads."

It was ridiculous to expect people to disregard their home life and settle in Pretoria without their families, he said.

The treason trialists, all of whom are at present on bail, will have to pay their own transport costs to the centre in which the trial is held and will also have to keep themselves throughout the trial.

Already the defence has spent several thousand pounds on expert advice, and fees of counsel will take a large part of the final sum, leaving little for relief among the accused and their families.