

Drycleaner named as founder of saboteurs

THE chief of the Security Police, Brigadier H. J. van den Bergh, this weekend named Monty Berman — a Johannesburg drycleaner who recently left for Britain—as the founder of the non-Communist sabotage group in South Africa.

Although he did not mention the African Resistance Movement by name, it is presumed that this is the organisation he was referring to.

Brigadier Van den Bergh said at a rally in Naboomspruit that since its banning, the Communist Party had gone underground and had remained active.

Another organisation — Umkhonto we Sizwe — was "out and out Communist" and had been responsible for innumerable acts of sabotage.

But, he added, it was not only the Communists who were responsible for sabotage.

Political Reporter

"Monty Berman, decidedly not an Afrikaner, fled with his wife. The Communists knew in South Africa that Berman had already formed another organisation — with lecturers, students and journalists as members.

"We knew of the existence of this group because the sabotage was not the work of Umkhonto we Sizwe. We succeeded in tracking down these people. You will have to wait to hear the evidence."

He said that Umkhonto we Sizwe was controlled by Anderson, who taught sabotage methods to its members. It was responsible for 150 acts of sabotage.

All the Umkhonto cases of sabotage had been solved, he said, but some of the people responsible had fled the country.

Inquiries in Johannesburg yesterday revealed little about Monty Berman.

In 1957 he was banned under the Suppression of Communism Act. He broke this ban four years later and was sentenced to four months' imprisonment for attending a meeting—a symposium on the relationship between "Black and White in Art."

Brigadier Van den Bergh said the Afrikaner people would be shocked to hear that young Afrikaners had been indoctrinated with Communism and had committed acts of sabotage.

The Security Police had curbed Communist activities, he said, though the dangers would be with South Africa for many years.

He said the Security Police held six-week courses on the background to Communism. He added: "In six weeks we barely succeeded in making them dedicated anti-Communists."

Handwritten notes on lined paper:

By legal practice as a defence
 on the basis of legislation (1) 4 (1961)
 has been exposed to me
 2) In view of the fact that my
 that I may have been in contact
 against me I am not prepared
 to answer any of the questions

Signature: J. J. van der Merwe
 28/9/64